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CHICAGO BEARS

1986 YEARBOOK

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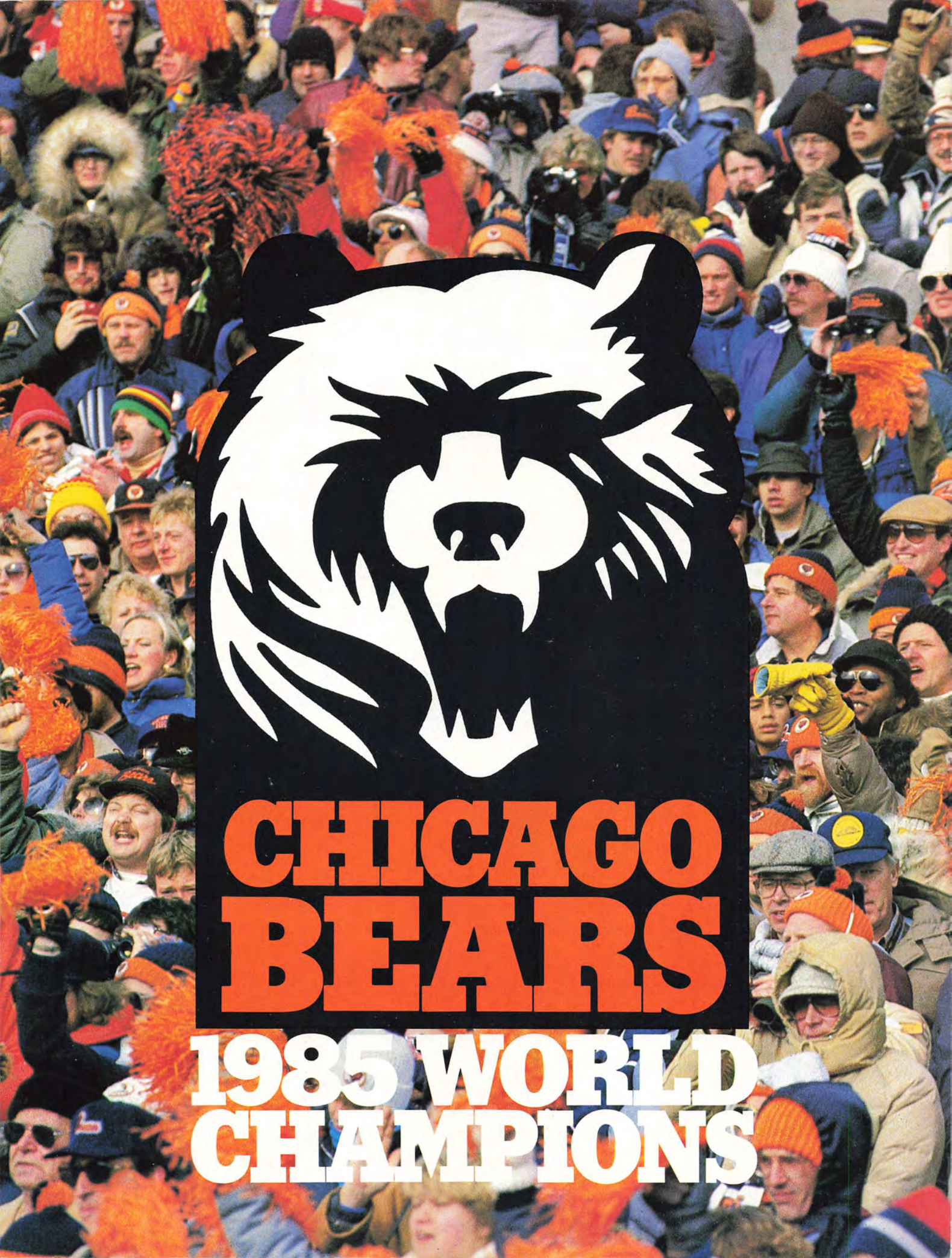
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CHICAGO BEARS 1986 YEARBOOK

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President	Lee Pfeifer
Vice President	Steve Cadrain
Publishing Consultants	Madison Page Group - Jim Archambault Jr., Michael J. Kearns
East Coast Sales	Mark Levy
West Coast Sales	McTaggart Wolk
Midwest Sales	Harry Sherman, Doug Evans
Production Coordinator	Tom Crawford
Art Direction/Design	Bill Madrid
Typography	GraphicType, Inc.

Editor	Ken Valdiserri
Cover & Photograhy	Bill Smith
Contributing Writers	Bill McGrane, Bryan Harlan

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(213) 337-7292 **(617) 232-7276**
7430 W. 88th Place, Westchester, CA 90045

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(Scene: Bears Locker room, January 26, 1986, Super Bowl XX; Time: 3:52)

Bears have just received the two-minute warning to their dressing room prior to taking the field for Super Bowl XX. Head Coach Mike Ditka addresses the team.

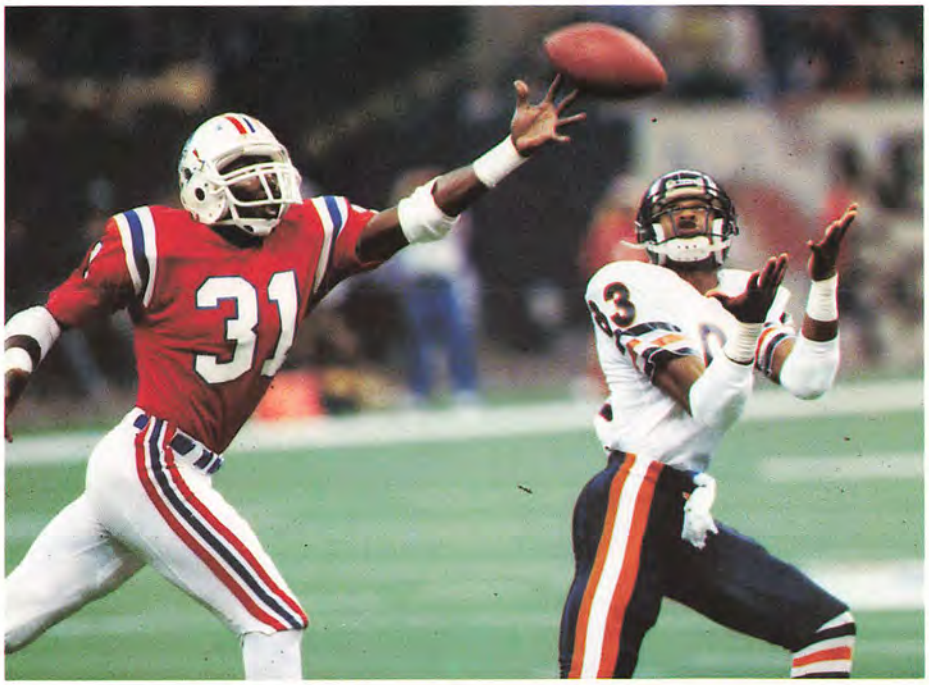
"Okay, we've got two minutes. You did all the talking last night. The only thing that I want to say is you made your feelings clear on what has to happen. Everybody said it . . . Gary, Walter, Dan, Jim, Mike; you know what it is going to take. It is going to take your best effort on every play . . . dedicate ourselves to that and we should have no problems. Go out and play Bear football that is smart and aggressive. If something bad happens don't worry; why?, because we're in this together as a football team and we are going to play it for each other and we're going to win this game for 49-50 or whatever number we have in this room. We are going to win it for each other. We are going to play it for each other and we're going to pick each other up. That's what it's all about. This is out of love for each other. This is your game . . . any other intentions won't be accepted . . . but you are going to win this game for each other. So let's go out there and play our kind of football. Let's have the Lord's prayer. Heavenly Father, we are grateful for this opportunity and we thank You for the talents You have given us and the chance to prove that we are the very best. Father we ask that You give us the courage and the commitment to use the talents to the best of our ability so that we may give the glory back to You. Father we ask that You may protect all the players in the game so that they may play the game free from injury. We pray as always in the name of Jesus Christ Your son our Lord, amen. Let's go . . . "

When it happened, when it finally happened and 22 years of frustration were redeemed, it all looked so easy. Carrying out Mike Ditka's pregame message, the Bears, like they had performed all year long, played together as a team in Super Bowl XX and came away with a resounding 46-10 triumph over the New England Patriots and their first championship since 1963.

"I feel I could jump over the top of the Superdome," proclaimed Bear linebacker Mike Singletary following the Bears win. The Bears had capped the greatest season in the history of this charter franchise by breaking seven Super Bowl records, an accomplishment that ranks with the 73-0 thrashing of the Washington Redskins in the 1940 Championship Game. The Bears scored the most points in Super Bowl history, won by the largest margin (36), scored the most points in the second half (23), most points in a 3rd quarter (21), held an opponent to the fewest rushing first downs (1) and lowest average yards per rushing attempt (0.6) and scored the most touchdowns by rushing as a team (4).

The 1985 Bears were successful because of a dominating defense and an opportunistic offense and their victory over the Patriots came as a result of that combination along with some sterling individual performances. "We played Bear football," said quarterback Jim McMahon, who fought off a week of Super Bowl hype and bruised buttocks to complete 12 of 20 passes for 256 yards and 2 rushing TD's. Richard Dent, the game's MVP, set the tone with his two forced fumbles and 1½ sacks. The Bears defense limited the Patriots offense to −19 yards at halftime and only 7 rushing yards for the game. Mike Ditka, a member of the last Bear championship team in 1963, said: "I don't think the '63 defense could stand up to these guys, as great as it was."

The game was all but over with 23 seconds left in the first quarter when



fullback Matt Suhey's 11-yard touchdown run made the score 13-3. At that point, New England had run nine plays without crossing the line of scrimmage. The Pats had made the quickest score in Super Bowl history 1:19 into the game. Tony Franklin's 37-yard field goal followed a Walter Payton fumble. All-pro defensive end, Richard Dent, took it away forcing fumbles on successive Patriot plays. The Bears recovered both at the New England 13 and scored on a Kevin Butler field goal and Suhey's TD scamper. What followed was a defensive demolition that involved six Bear defenders getting credit for seven sacks. "I had other people tell me we'd win the game handily and I never doubted it," Ditka said. "I knew they were going to have a hard time when I saw how our defense played early. They were outstanding."

After a 59-yard drive in 10 plays ended in a McMahon quarterback sneak and a Kevin Butler 24-yard field goal, the Bears led at halftime 23-3. The Bears continued the onslaught in the third quarter with a 96-yard, 10 play drive highlighted by a 60-yard pass to Willie Gault (4 catches, 129 yards) which resulted in McMahon's second TD run. Rookie cornerback Reggie Phillips who replaced the injured Leslie Frazier became the 24th Bear and 11th defensive player to score in 1985-86 when his 28-yard interception return made the score 37-3 with 6:16 left in the third quarter. A William Perry 2-yard touchdown run and a Henry Waechter sack of Patriot QB Steve Grogan closed out the scoring.

When it was all over, the Bears had lived up to their season long boasting and relieved their loyal following from years of frustration and disappointment. On January 26, 1986, the Chicago Bears convinced the world who the best team in football was and their shining proof was the Vince Lombardi Trophy that they brought back to their loyal fans in the City of Chicago. ■

PERRY
72
55

WORLD CHAMPS
CHICAGO BEARS

55

60

PAYTON
34
SUHEY
26

45

SUPER B

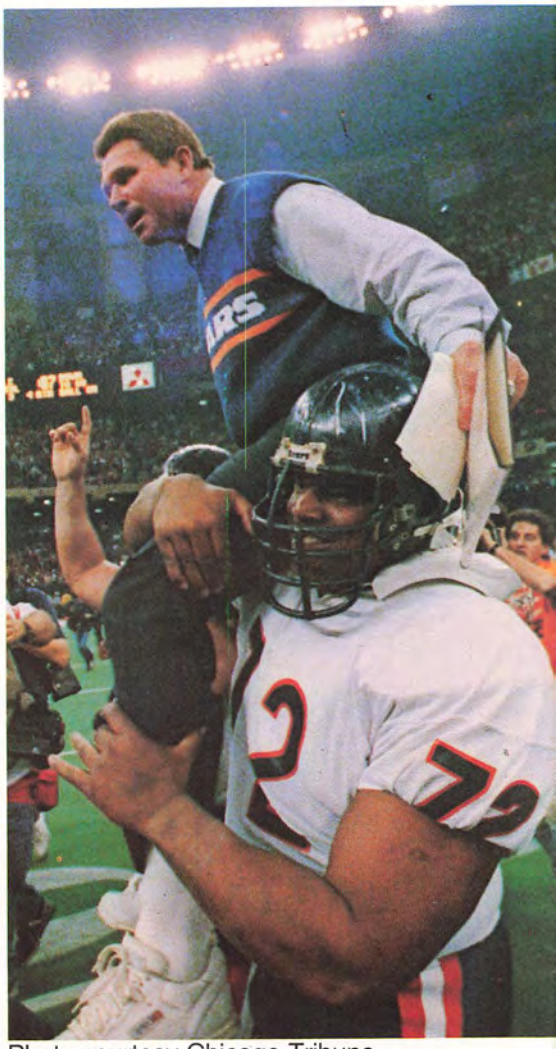
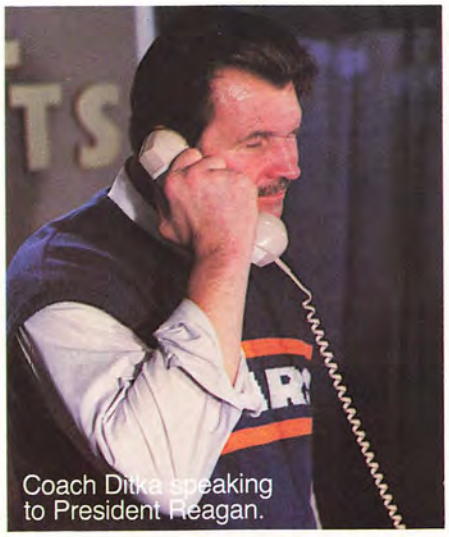


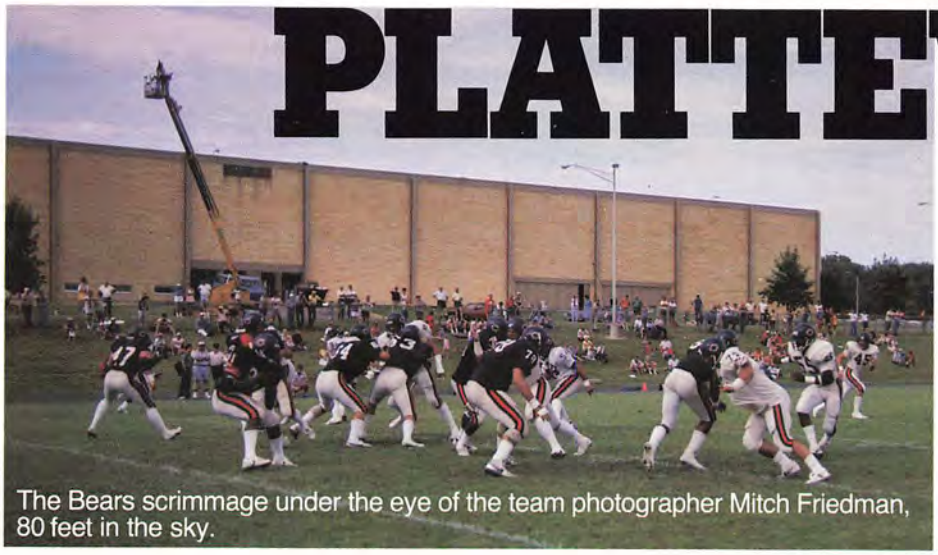
Photo courtesy Chicago Tribune



Coach Ditka speaking to President Reagan.

BOWL XX

PLATTEVILLE



The Bears scrimmage under the eye of the team photographer Mitch Friedman, 80 feet in the sky.

Matt Suhey (26) and Kurt Becker(79) try to create running room for Walter Payton.

Walter Payton leads way for Matt Suhey as fans watch morning workout.

Steve Fuller looks for receiver during '85 "Blue-White" game.

The Bears decided prior to the 1984 season to move their summer training camp to a more rural setting away from Lake Forest — the team's permanent headquarters.

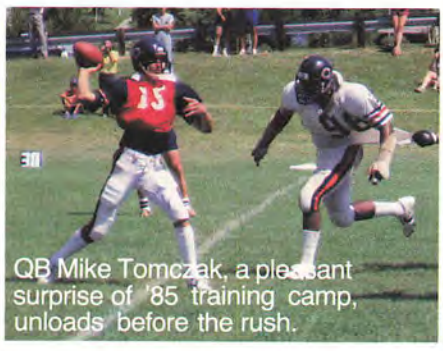
After examining the facilities at several colleges within a 200 mile radius of Chicago, the Bears decided to hold camp at the University of Wisconsin-Platteville. The southwestern Wisconsin town with a population of 10,000, is approximately 180 miles northwest of Chicago, 75 miles southwest of Madison, Wisconsin and 22 miles east of Dubuque, Iowa.

The University supplies two dormitories, a dining hall, meeting rooms, locker room facilities and five practice fields. The Bears also have a intrasquad game each summer with the offense and defense squaring off at the school's Pioneer Stadium.

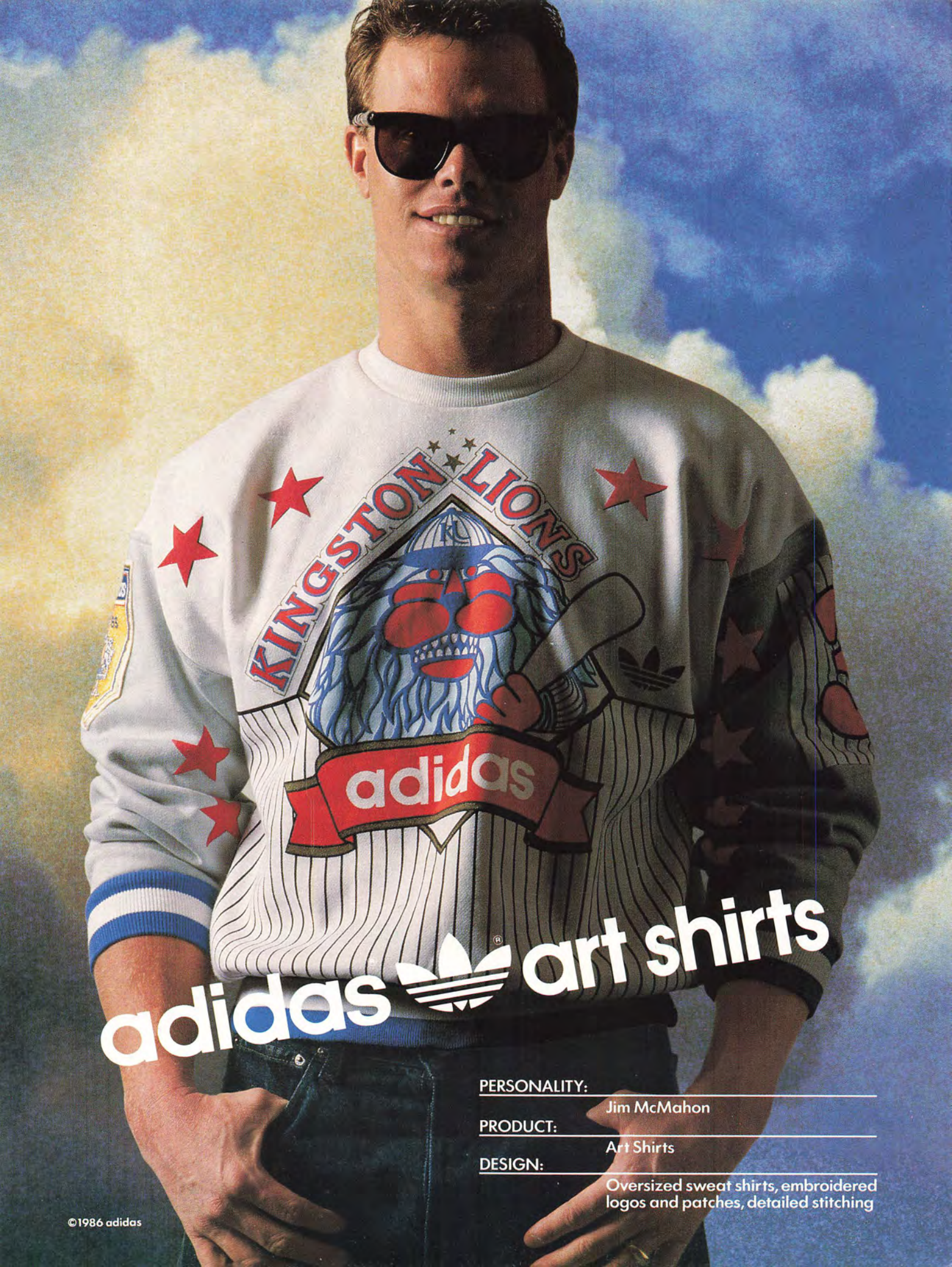
In 1984, the Bears first year at Platteville, the team stayed three weeks before returning to Lake Forest prior to the second exhibition game. Because the Bears management saw the trip to Platteville as a productive experience, the team stayed a full month prior to the 1985 campaign. Since the Bears moved their training site to Platteville, the team has posted a 25-7 regular season record, two appearances in the NFC Championship game, and a Super Bowl title.

The Bears will begin their third camp at Platteville starting on July 15 when recent draftees and free agents report. The veterans arrive on July 19 and the entire squad has its' first workout on July 20.

Because Platteville is just over a three-hour drive from the Chicago area, thousands of fans have migrated to the picturesque community to watch the team workout. Practices are generally held twice daily at 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. and are open to the public free of charge. ■



QB Mike Tomczak, a pleasant surprise of '85 training camp, unloads before the rush.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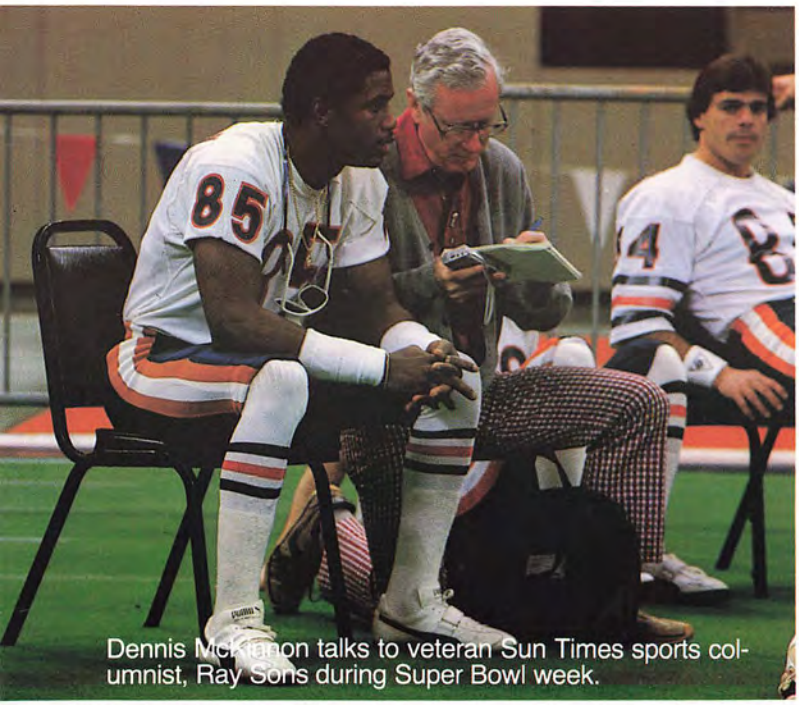
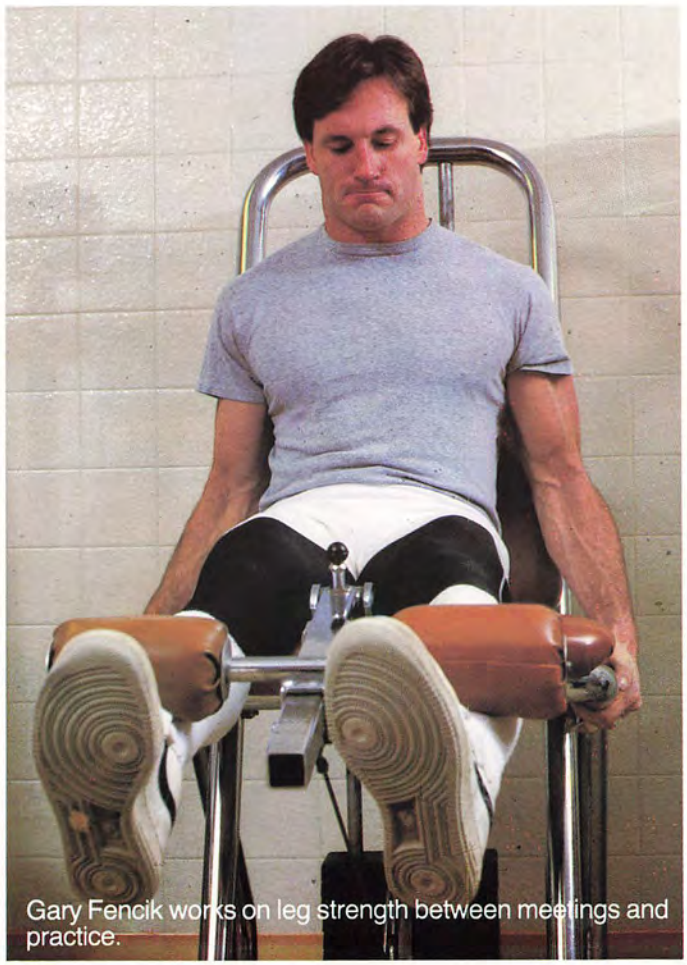
LIFE IN THE NFL

William Perry takes a nap while listening to some tunes on one of the Bears team flights.

GM Jerry Vainisi and Mike Ditka play gin rummy to burn some time on team flight to San Francisco.



Dennis McKinnon talks to veteran Sun Times sports columnist, Ray Sons during Super Bowl week.



Gary Fencik works on leg strength between meetings and practice.

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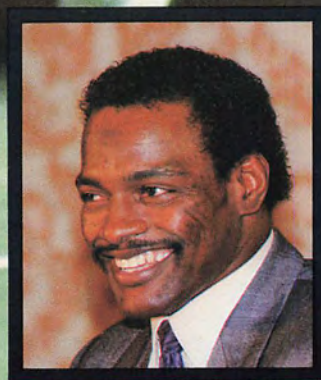


34

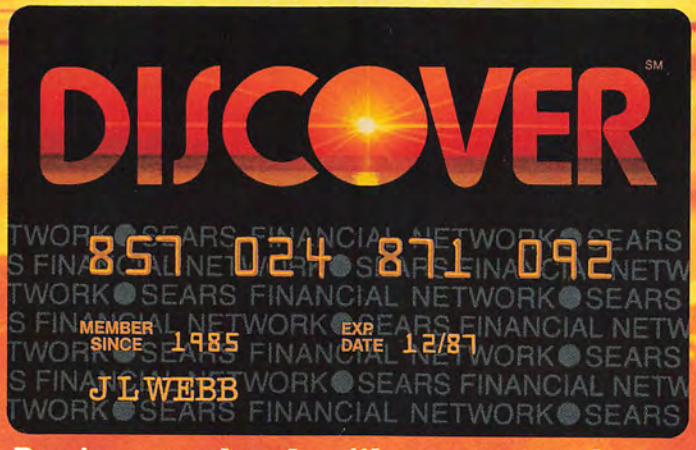
Walter Payton, Running Back

12th Year, Jackson State, Ht: 5′ 10″, Wt: 202, Age: 31,
Hometown: Columbia, MS

"I really admire Walter Payton. I feel he's a special person who truly appreciates the opportuntiy he's had. He really cares about his sport, enough so that if it came down to making an individual sacrifice in the interest of the sport, he would do it, without hesitation. There's a genuine love there, a special relationship. Besides, I just love to watch him run."

— Julius Erving

SHARING IN SUPER BOWL PRIDE.



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Super Bowl XX made the Bears Chicago's Pride. The Discover Card is proud to support the Bears and wants you to make it your card for retail purchases, travel and entertainment nationwide.

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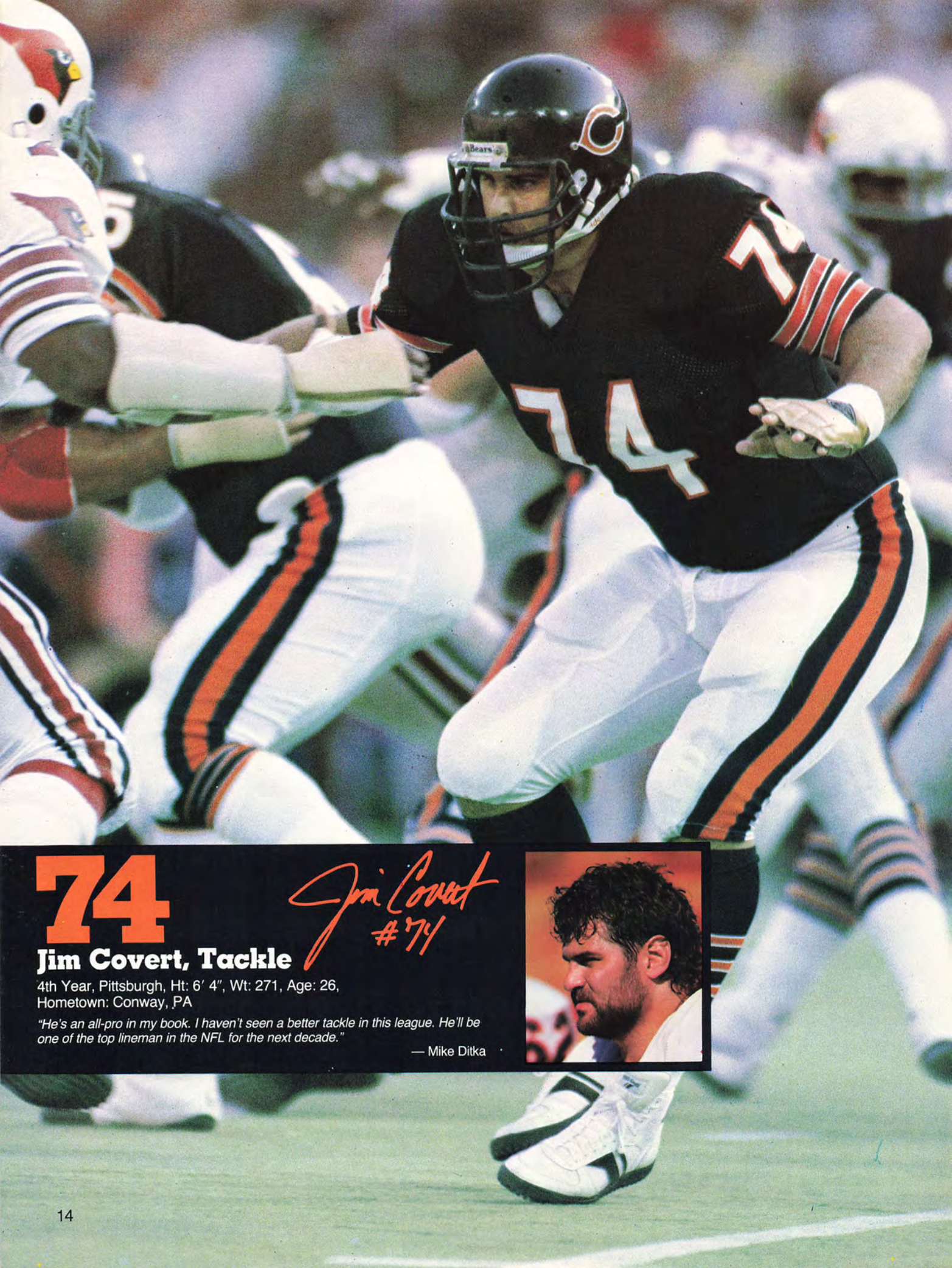

74

Jim Covert #74

Jim Covert, Tackle

4th Year, Pittsburgh, Ht: 6′ 4″, Wt: 271, Age: 26,
Hometown: Conway, PA

"He's an all-pro in my book. I haven't seen a better tackle in this league. He'll be one of the top lineman in the NFL for the next decade."

— Mike Ditka

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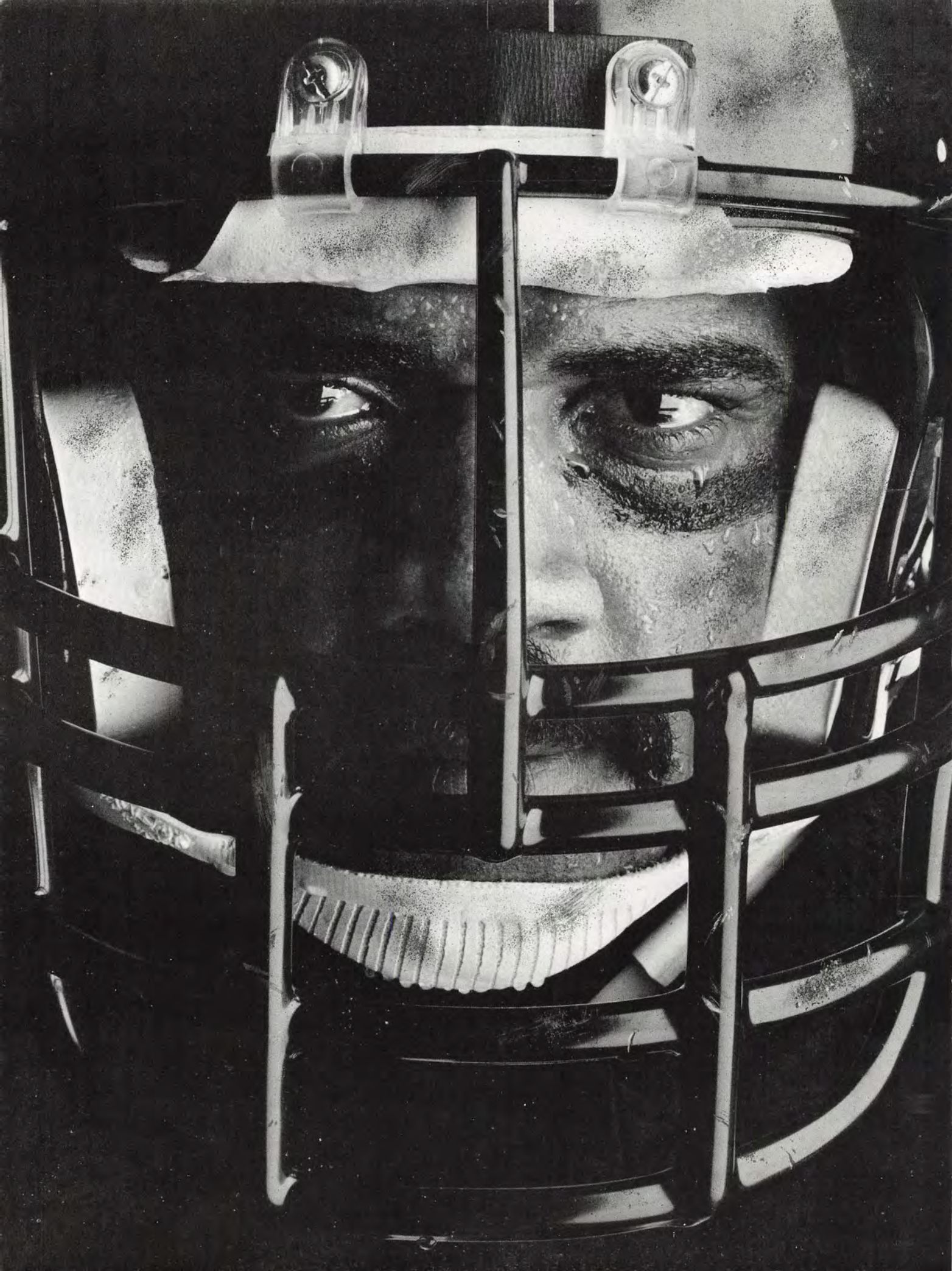

"Sometimes I think I work as hard as a Continental banker."

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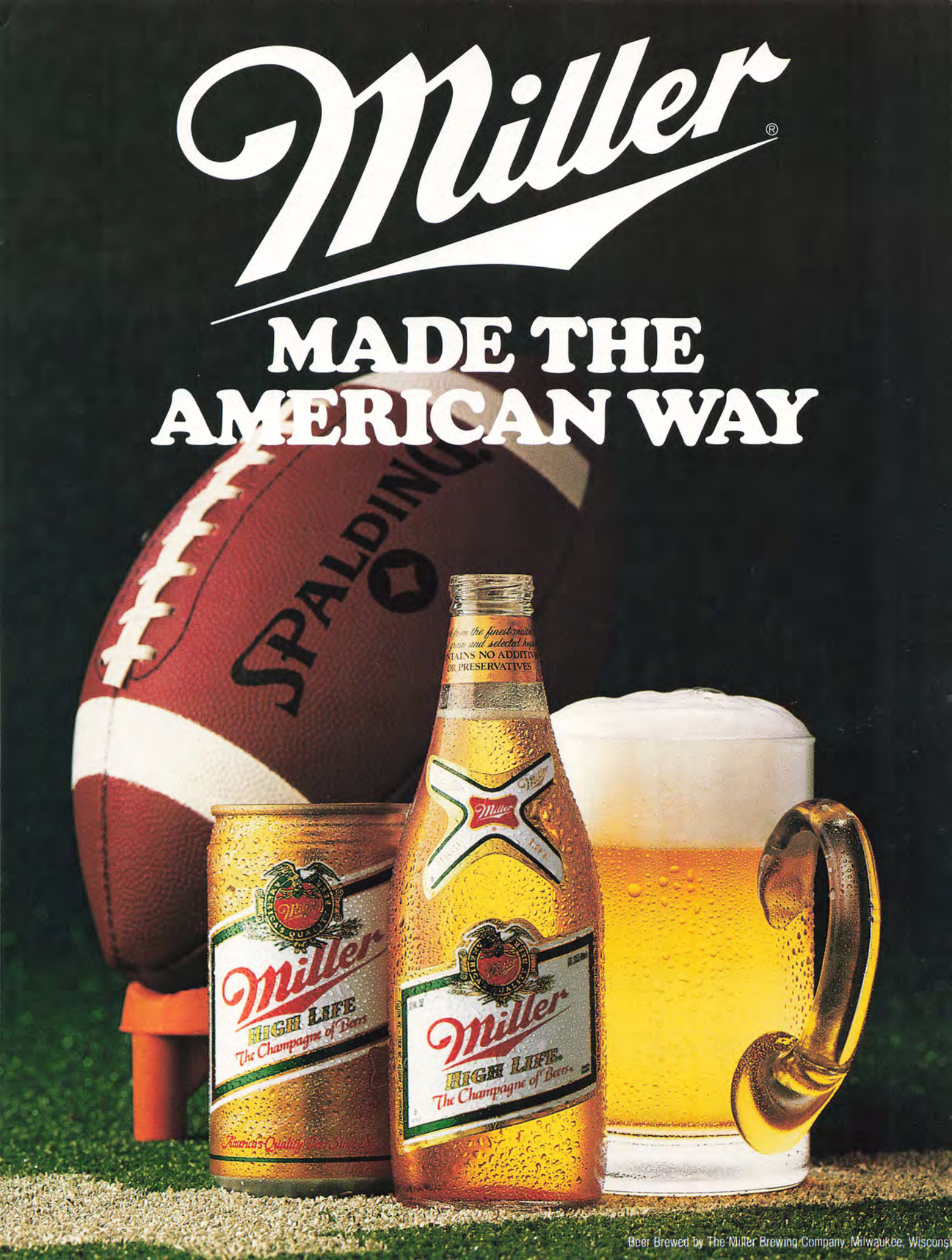
63

Jay Hilgenberg, Center

6th Year, Iowa, Ht: 6′ 3″, Wt: 265, Age: 27, Hometown: Iowa City, IA

"They all (NFL Scouts) thought I was too small coming out of college. I wanted to prove I could make it. A lot of teams think you need a certain size, speed, weight. The only thing you can't measure is a guy's heart. All this game takes is to play with your heart."

— Jay Hilgenberg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26

Matt Suhey, Running Back

7th Year, Penn State, Ht: 5′ 11″, Wt: 216, Age: 27,
Hometown: State College, PA

"A lot of people don't realize what a key ingredient he is in our offense. He makes our running game go. He's a good receiver and let's face it, there may not be a better blocking back in the NFL."
— Walter Payton

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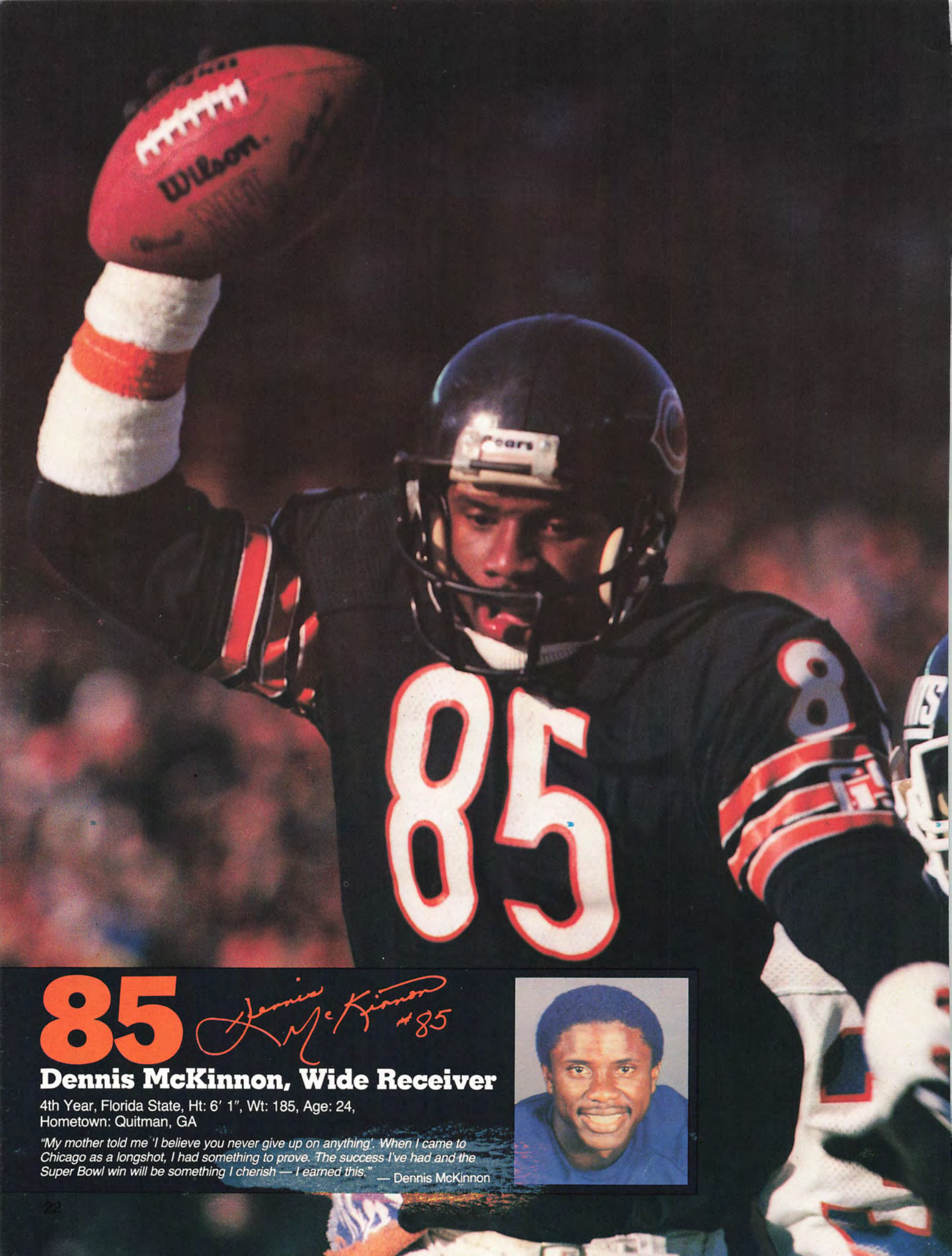

85

Dennis McKinnon #85

Dennis McKinnon, Wide Receiver

4th Year, Florida State, Ht: 6′ 1″, Wt: 185, Age: 24,
Hometown: Quitman, GA

"My mother told me 'I believe you never give up on anything'. When I came to Chicago as a longshot, I had something to prove. The success I've had and the Super Bowl win will be something I cherish — I earned this." — Dennis McKinnon

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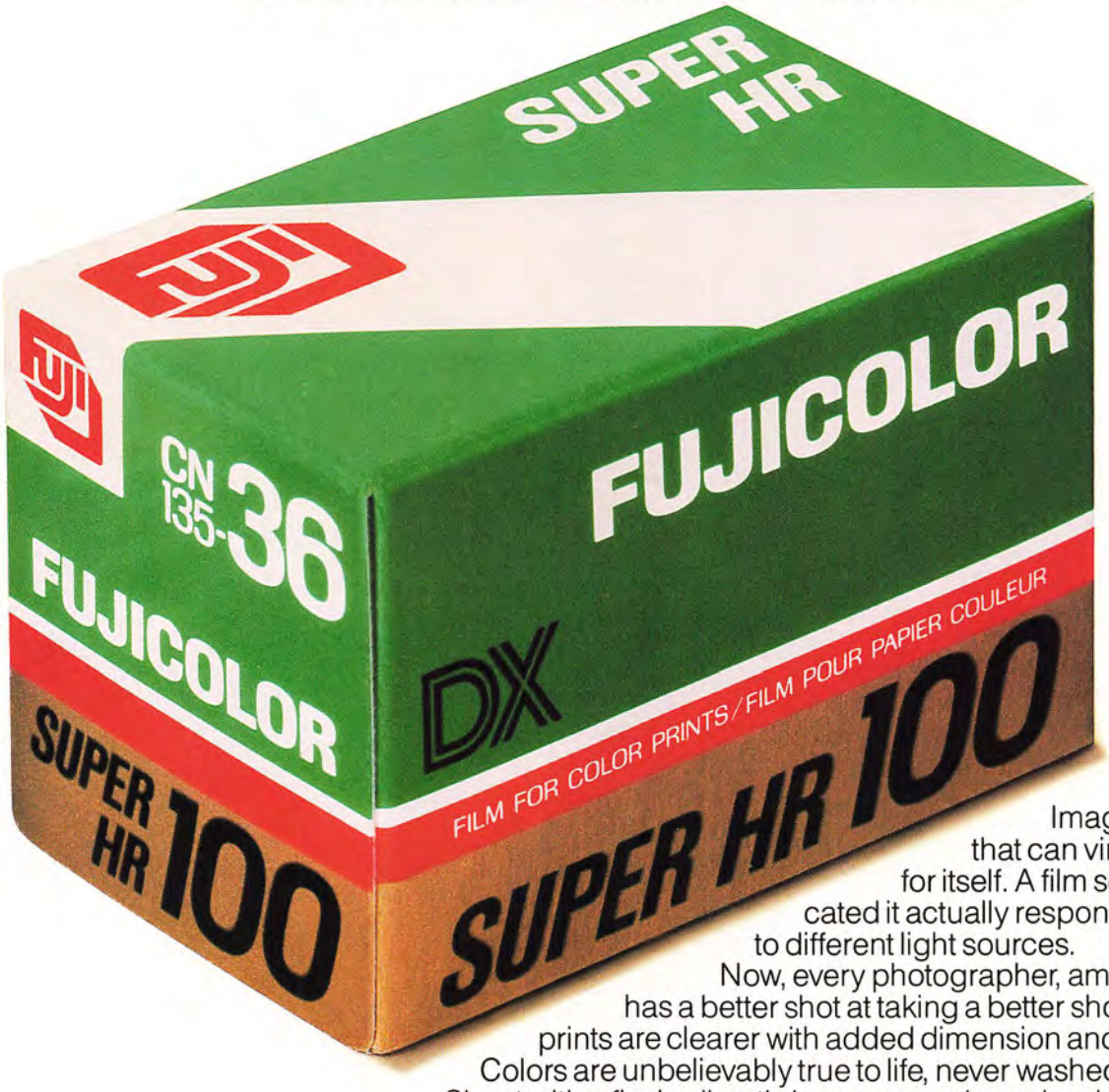

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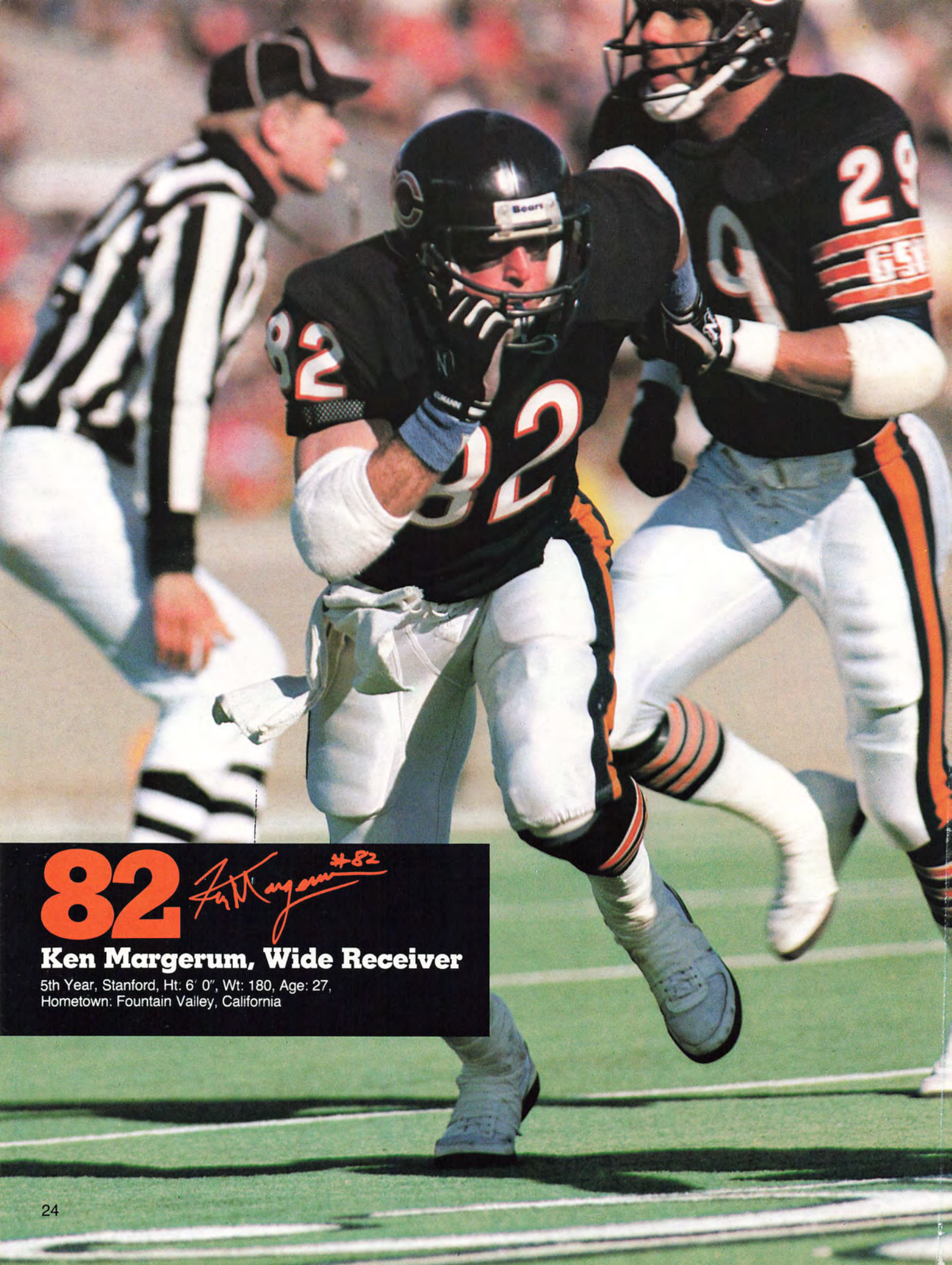

82

Ken Margerum #82

Ken Margerum, Wide Receiver

5th Year, Stanford, Ht: 6′ 0″, Wt: 180, Age: 27,
Hometown: Fountain Valley, California

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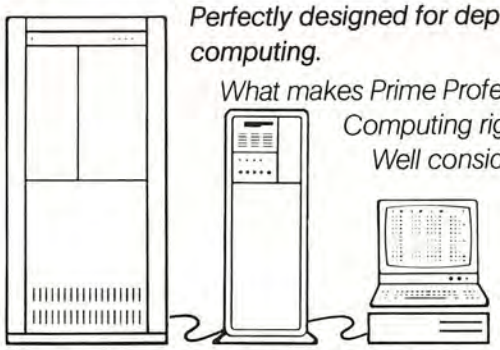

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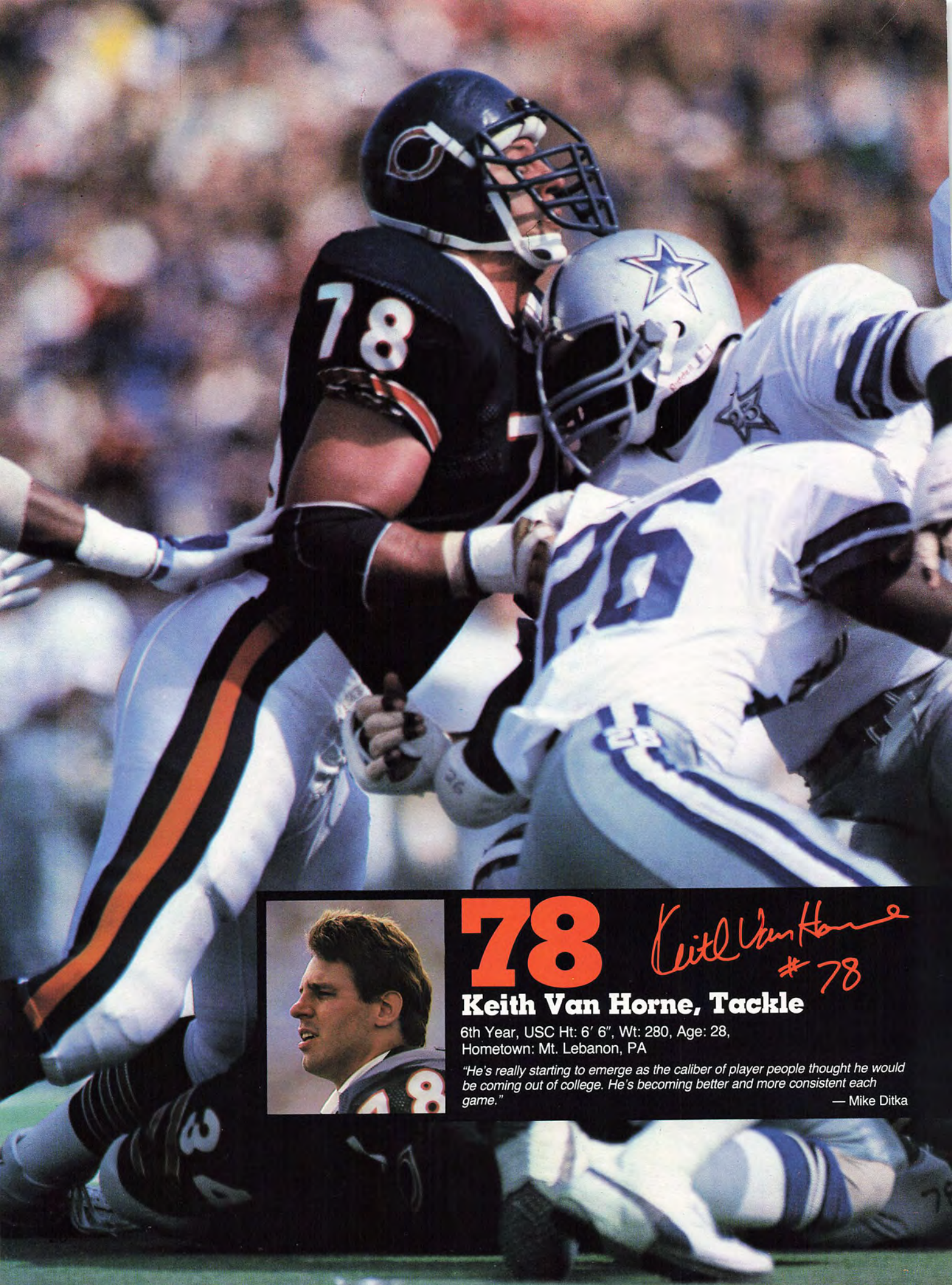

78

Keith Van Horne #78

Keith Van Horne, Tackle

6th Year, USC Ht: 6′ 6″, Wt: 280, Age: 28,
Hometown: Mt. Lebanon, PA

"He's really starting to emerge as the caliber of player people thought he would be coming out of college. He's becoming better and more consistent each game."
— Mike Ditka

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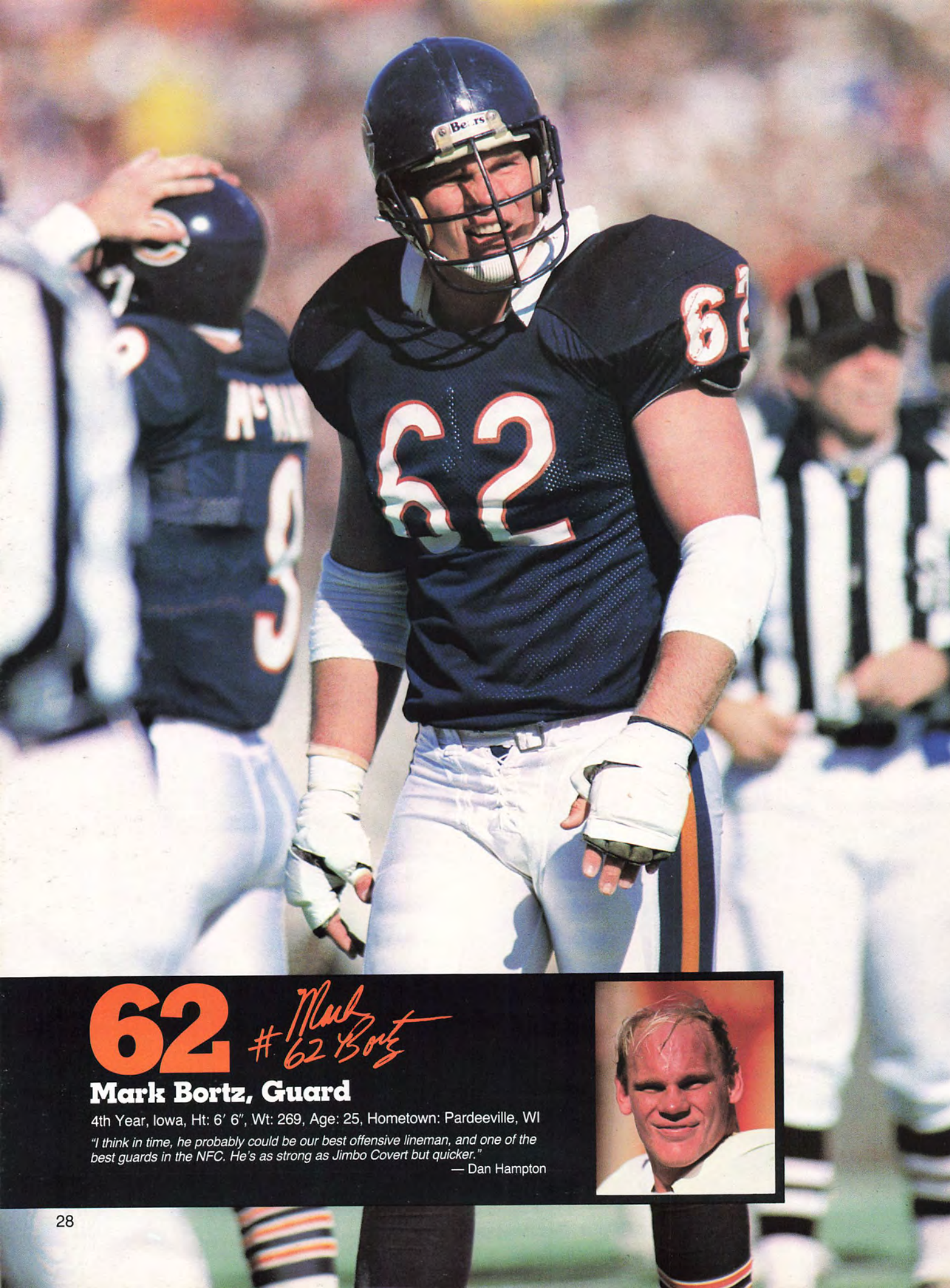

62

#62 Mark Bortz

Mark Bortz, Guard

4th Year, Iowa, Ht: 6′ 6″, Wt: 269, Age: 25, Hometown: Pardeeville, WI

"I think in time, he probably could be our best offensive lineman, and one of the best guards in the NFC. He's as strong as Jimbo Covert but quicker."

— Dan Hampton

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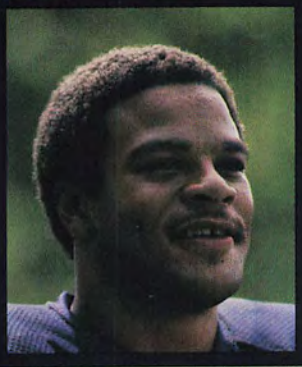
87 Emery Moorehead

Emery Moorehead, Tight End

10th Year, Colorado, Ht: 6′ 2″, Wt: 220, Age: 32,
Hometown: Evanston, IL

"People sometimes underestimate Emery. Everyone seems to know he's blessed with good speed and is a good receiver, but he's not a bad blocker, especially for his size. Besides that, he's a money player."
— Mike Ditka



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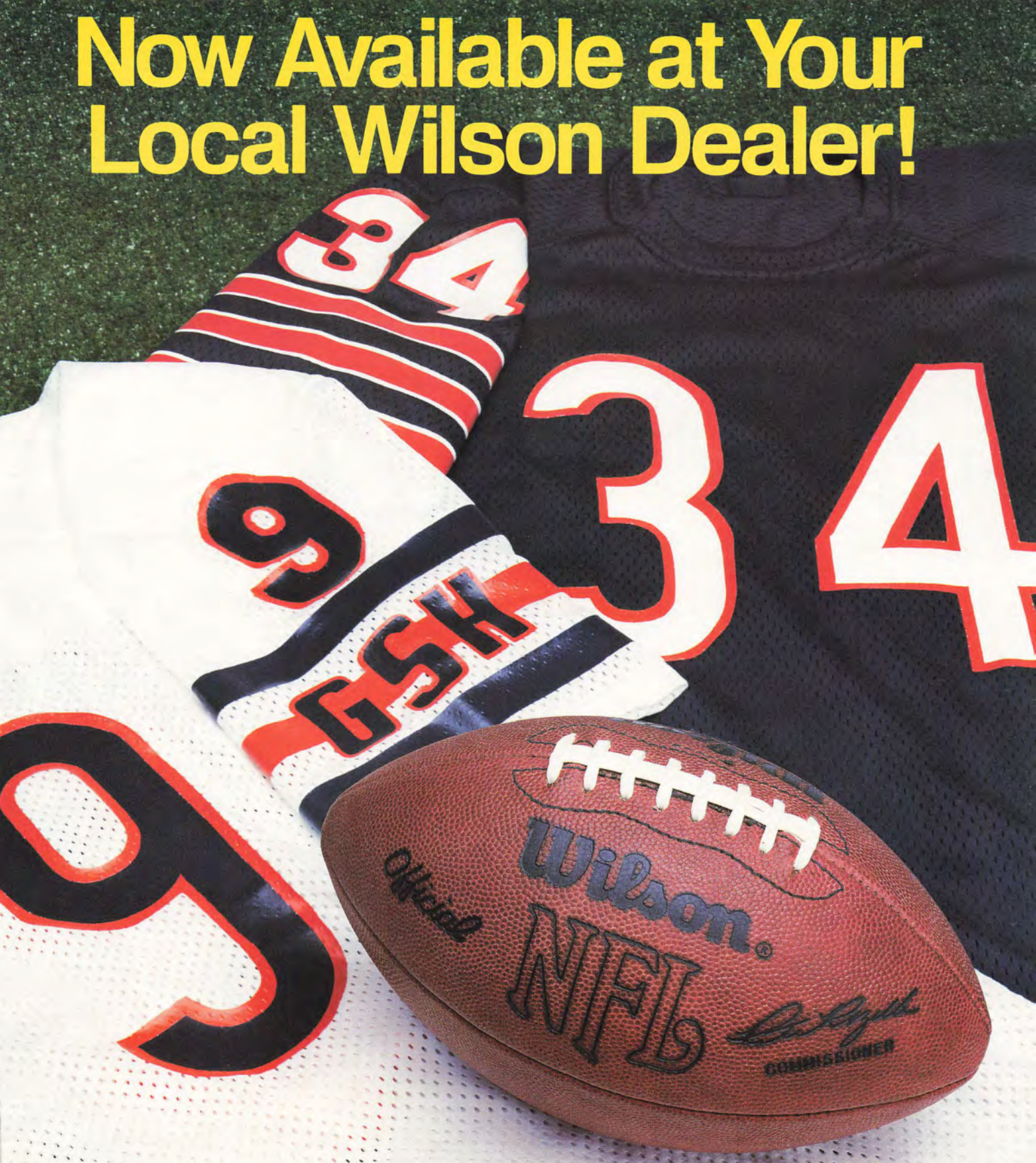

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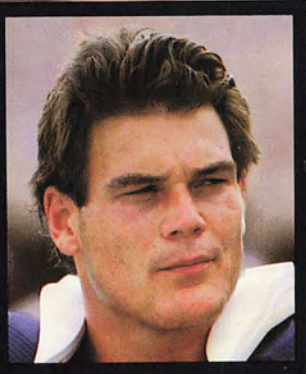
99

Dan Hampton, Defensive End

8th Year, Arkansas, Ht: 6′ 5″, Wt: 267, Age: 28,
Hometown: Oklahoma City, OK

"His presence creates havoc in the line. He's regarded as such a great player among other NFL players that every team concentrates on stopping him which makes life easier for us other lineman." — Steve McMichael



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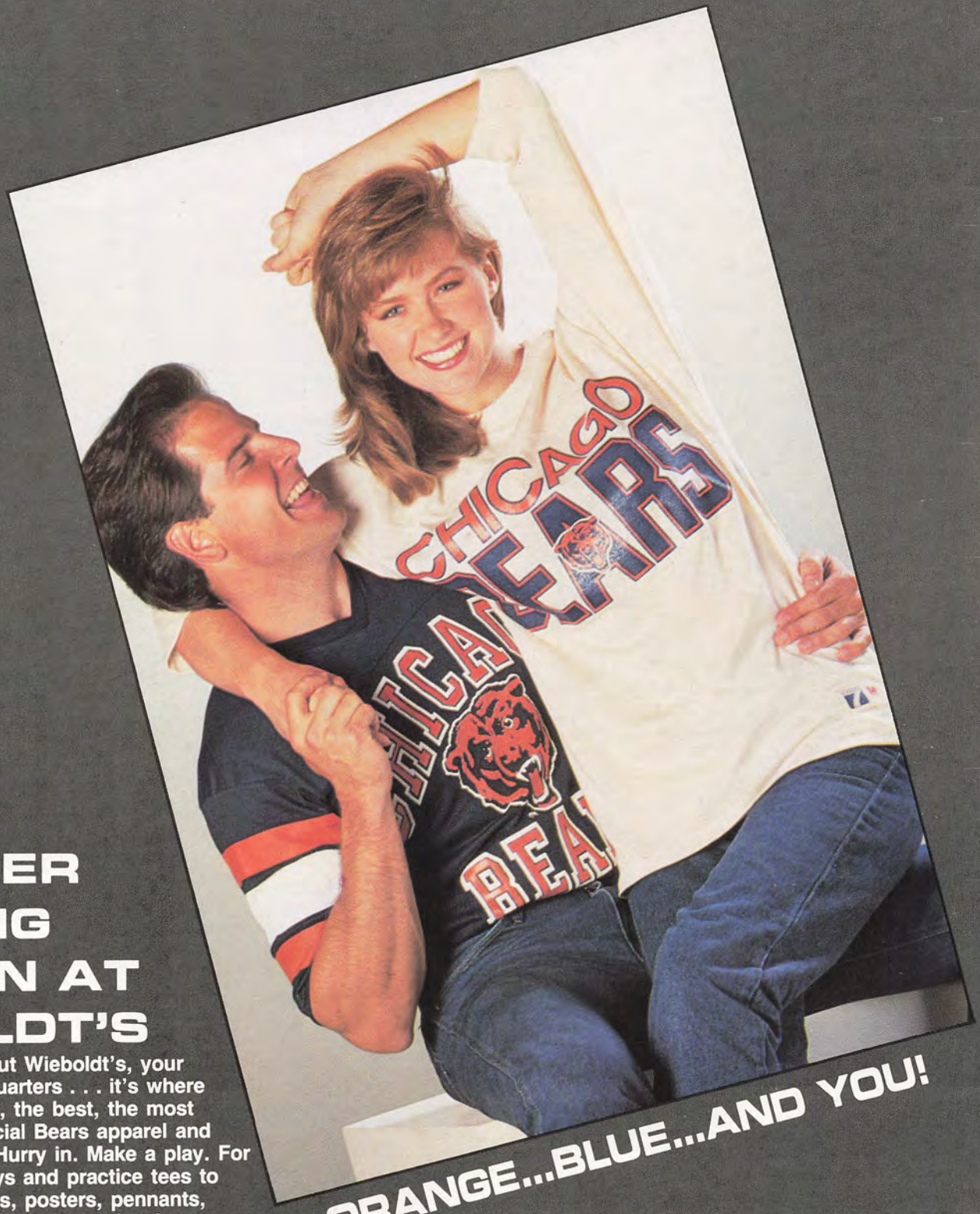

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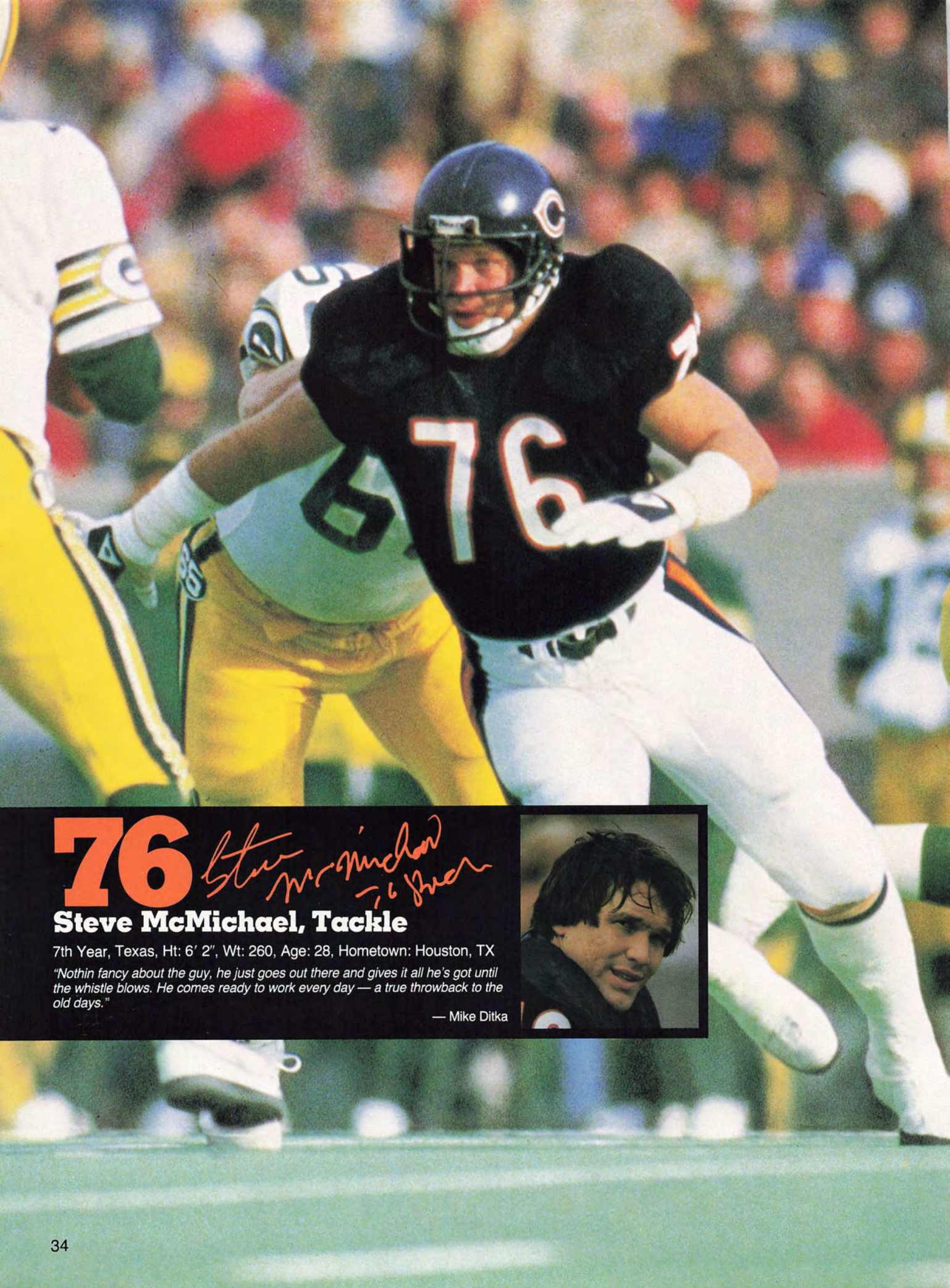

76

Steve McMichael, Tackle

7th Year, Texas, Ht: 6′ 2″, Wt: 260, Age: 28, Hometown: Houston, TX

"Nothin fancy about the guy, he just goes out there and gives it all he's got until the whistle blows. He comes ready to work every day — a true throwback to the old days."

— Mike Ditka

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Longest Pass Completion:	99 yards, has been accomplished six times; most recently—Ron Jaworski to Mike Quick, Philadelphia vs. Atlanta, 11-10-85.
Longest Interception Return:	102 yards, done four times; most recently—Louis Breeden, Cincinnati vs. San Diego, 11-8-81.
Longest Punt:	98 yards, Steve O'Neal, N.Y. Jets vs. Denver, 9-21-69.
Longest Punt Return:	98 yards, three times; most recently—Dennis Morgan, Dallas vs. St. Louis 10-13-74.
Longest Kickoff Return:	106 yards, three times; most recently—Roy Green, St. Louis vs. Dallas, 10-21-79.
Longest Fumble Return:	104 yards, Jack Tatum, Oakland vs. Green Bay, 9-24-72.
Longest Game:	82 minutes, 40 seconds, Miami 27 vs. Kansas City 24; AFC Divisional Playoff, 12-25-71.
Longest Career:	George Blanda, 26 seasons; 1949-1975, the last nine with Oakland.

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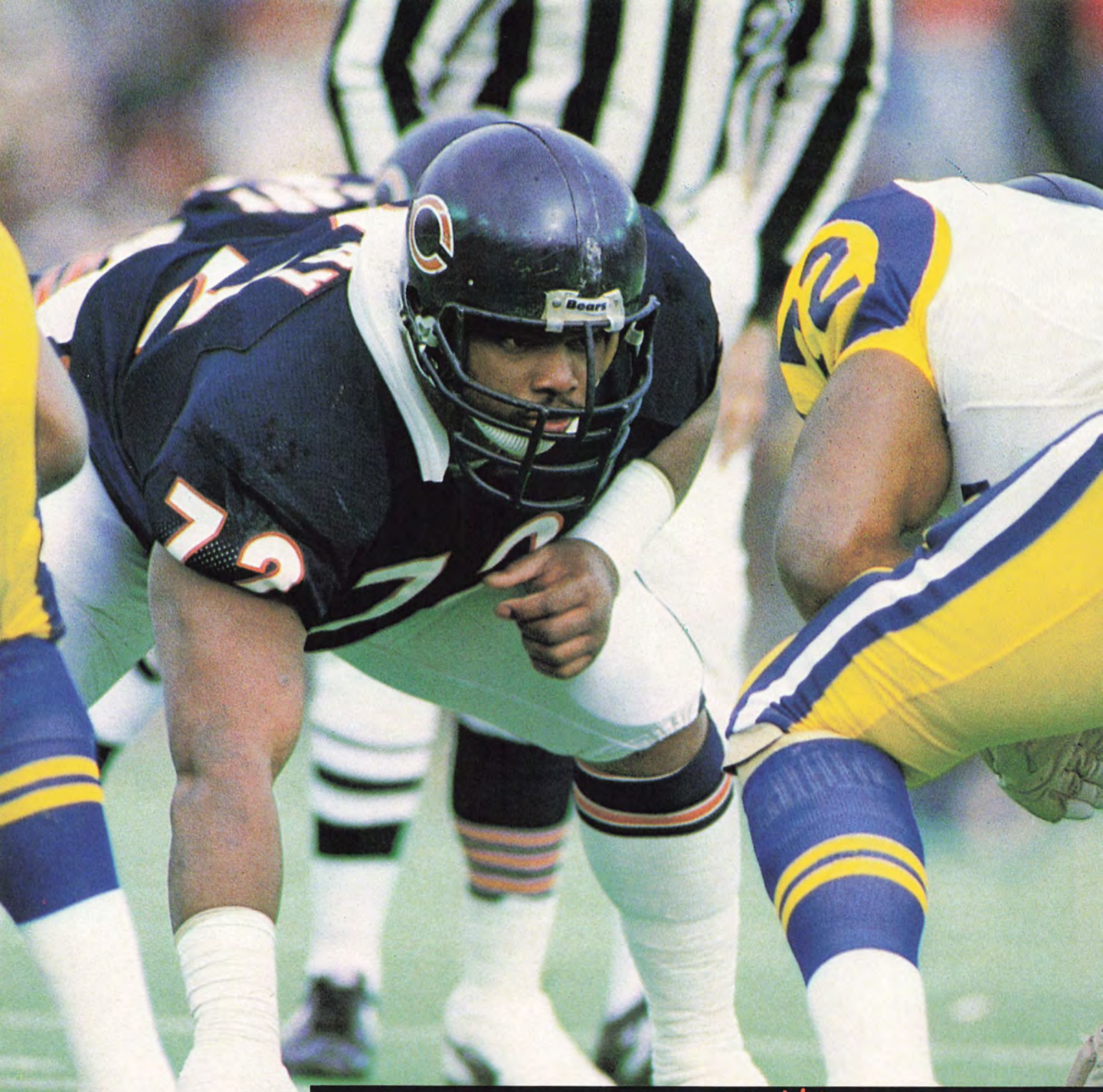

72

William Perry, Defensive Tackle

2nd Year, Clemson, Ht: 6′ 2″, Wt: 308, Age: 23, Hometown: Aiken, SC

"He's a big rolly-polly guy who you can't help but like. He's big enough that there's enough of him to go around for everyone. He has great potential to be a dominating player in this league."

— Mike Ditka

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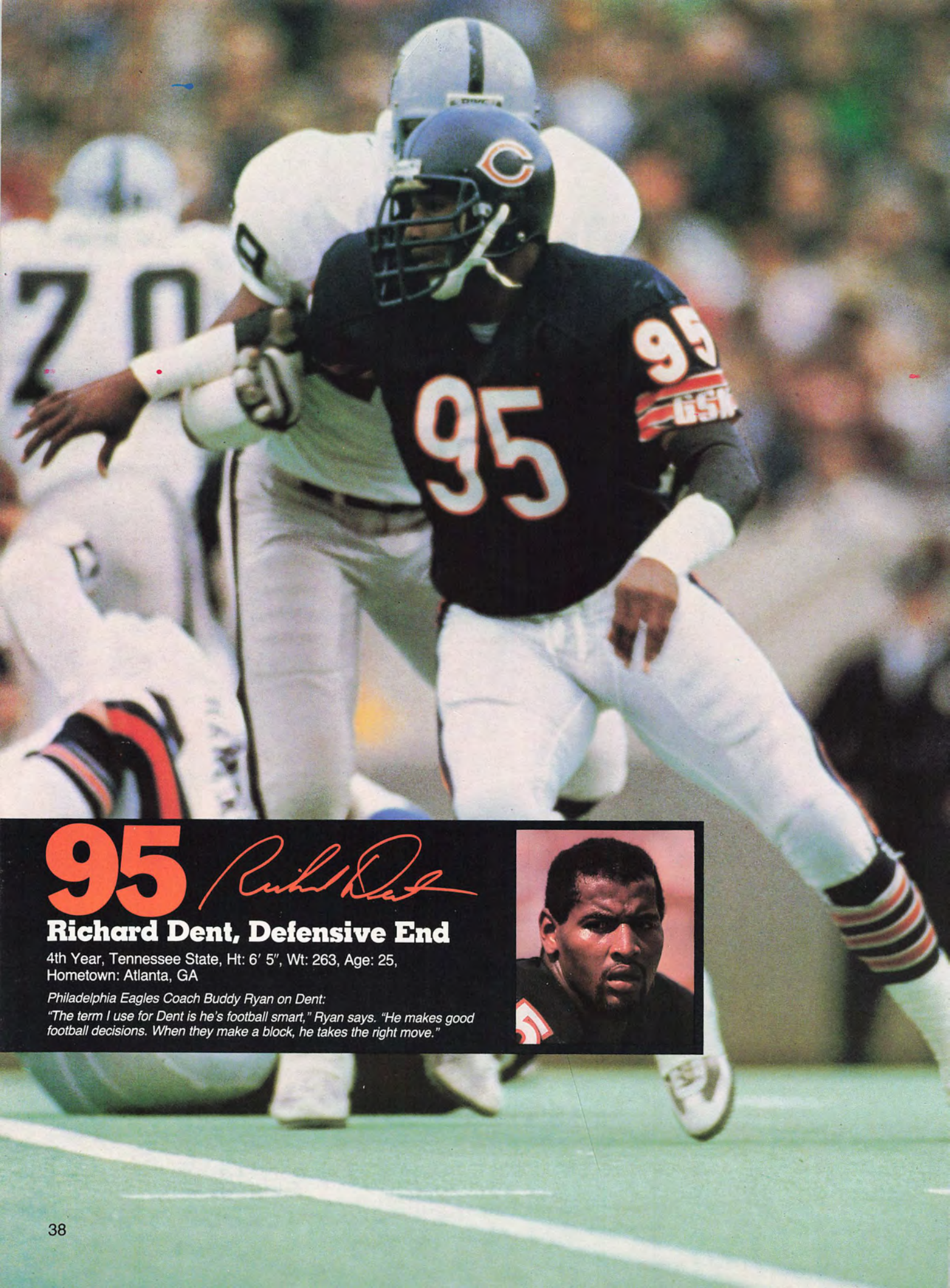


95 Richard Dent

Richard Dent, Defensive End

4th Year, Tennessee State, Ht: 6′ 5″, Wt: 263, Age: 25,
Hometown: Atlanta, GA

Philadelphia Eagles Coach Buddy Ryan on Dent:

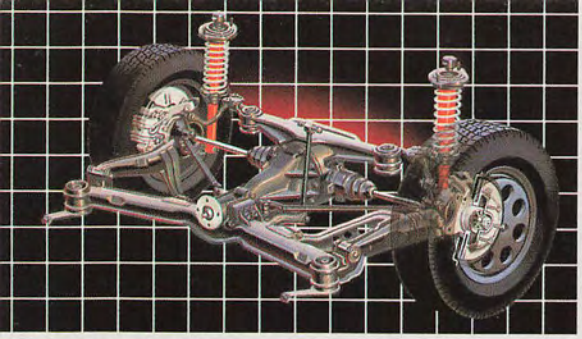
"The term I use for Dent is he's football smart," Ryan says. "He makes good football decisions. When they make a block, he takes the right move."

55

Otis Wilson, Linebacker

7th Year, Louisville, Ht: 6′ 2″, Wt: 232, Age: 28,
Hometown: New York, NY

"He's cocky and tough and he's probably the most emotional player we've got on defense. He goes to play. Open up a can of whip-butt and put it on them."
— Buddy Ryan



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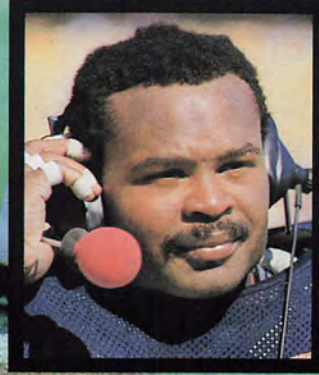

50

Mike Singletary, Linebacker

6th Year, Baylor, Ht: 6′ 0″, Wt: 228, Age: 27, Hometown: Houston, TX

"No question he's the best linebacker in the NFL. All you have to do is look at the things he can do — cover people, run with people, tackle, and run the defense. He's a coaches' dream."
— Buddy Ryan

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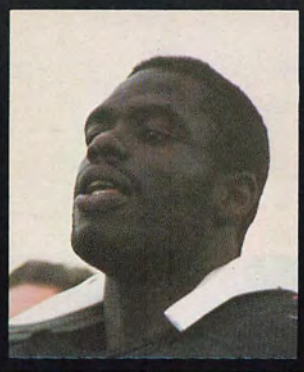

58

Wilber Marshall 58

Wilber Marshall, Linebacker

3rd Year, Florida, Ht: 6′ 1″, Wt: 225, Age: 24, Hometown: Titusville, FL

"He's blessed with so much athletic ability there may be no way to stop him once he gets more experience. He may be taking my place in the Pro Bowl."
— Otis Wilson

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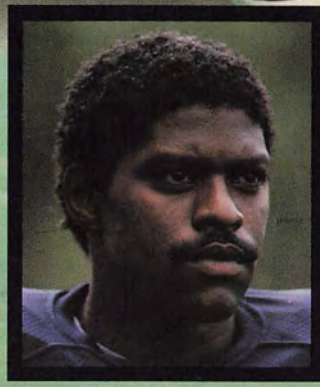

27

Mike Richardson, Defensive Back

4th Year, Arizona St., Ht: 6′ 0″, Wt: 188, Age: 25,
Hometown: Compton, CA

"I knew Mike was special when I had him at ASU. He was so talented that we designed our pass coverage to put Mike in the best position to get the ball. He had 10 interceptions one year and as he continues to develop I think he'll have the same impact in the NFL. He seems to get better every year." — Daryll Rogers

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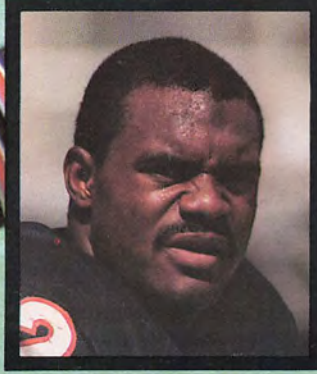

22

Dave Duerson, Safety

4th Year, Notre Dame, Ht: 6′ 1″, Wt: 203, Age: 25, Hometown: Muncie, IN

"He waited for his turn and when it came he took advantage of it. He's a big, strong, fast athlete — everything you look for — and he's got a great savvy on the field and a knack for the ball."

— Mike Ditka

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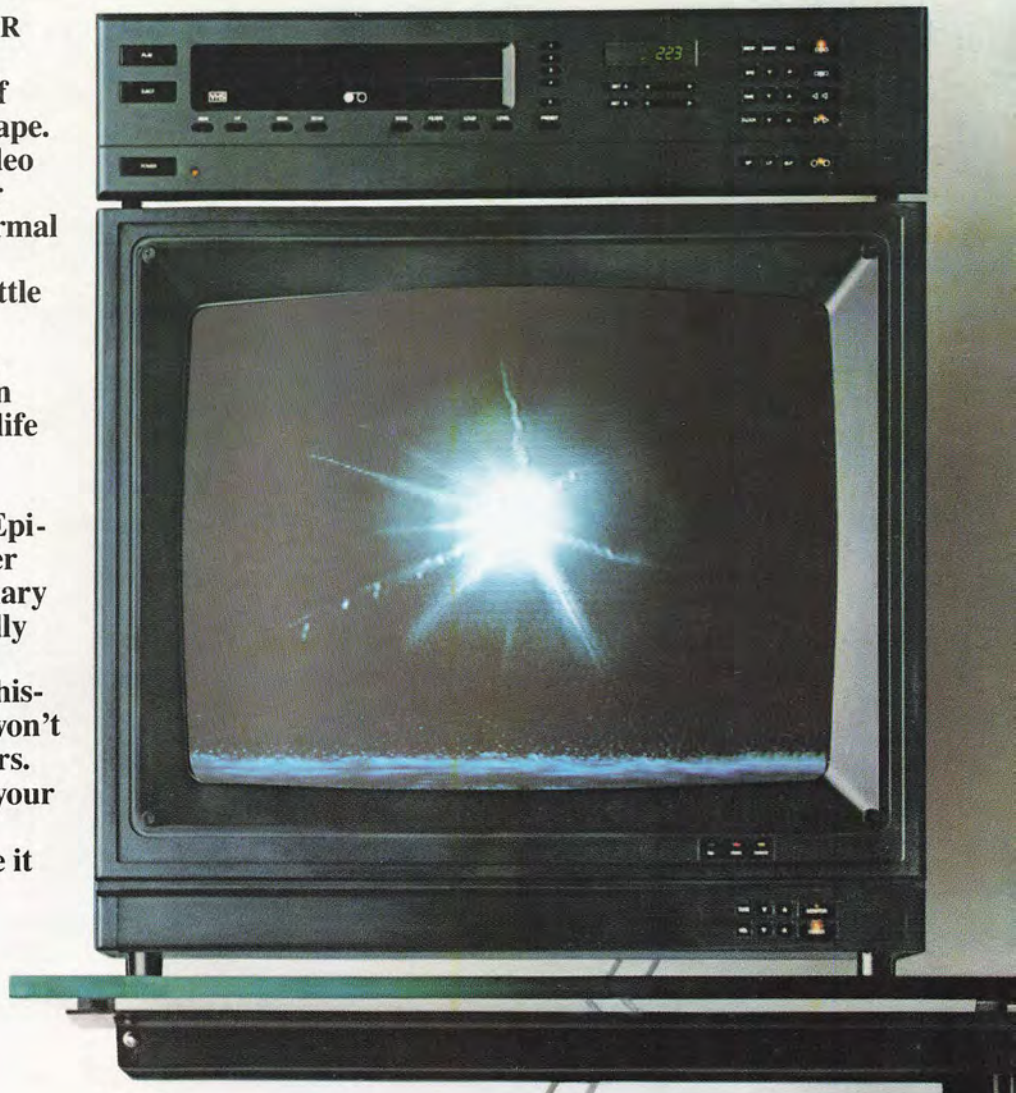
And quite another to replace it because you have to.



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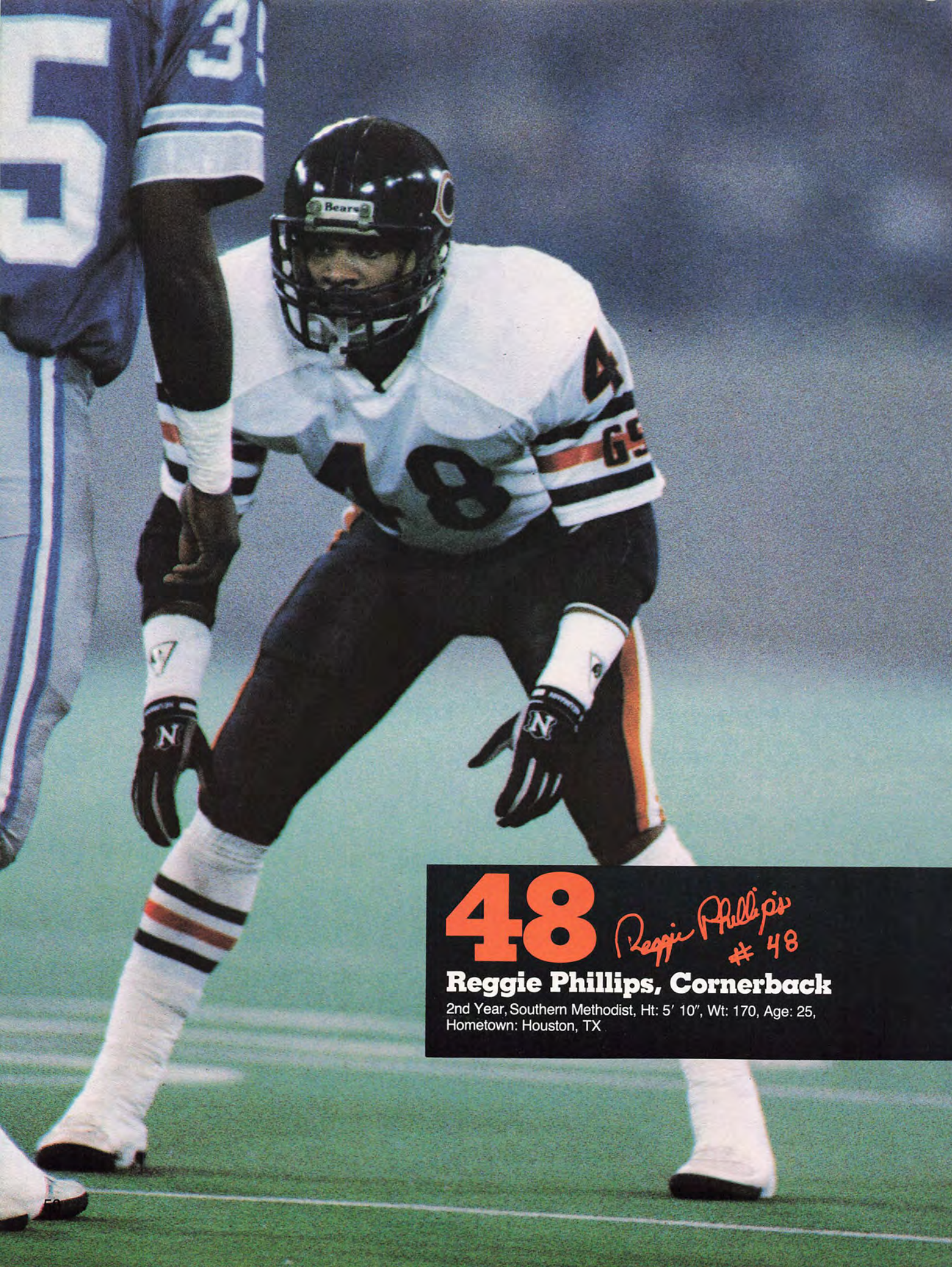

48

Reggie Phillips, Cornerback

2nd Year, Southern Methodist, Ht: 5′ 10″, Wt: 170, Age: 25,
Hometown: Houston, TX

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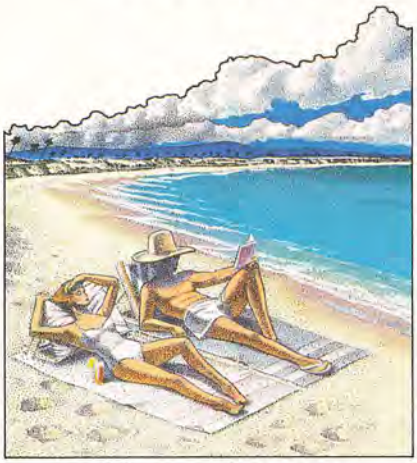

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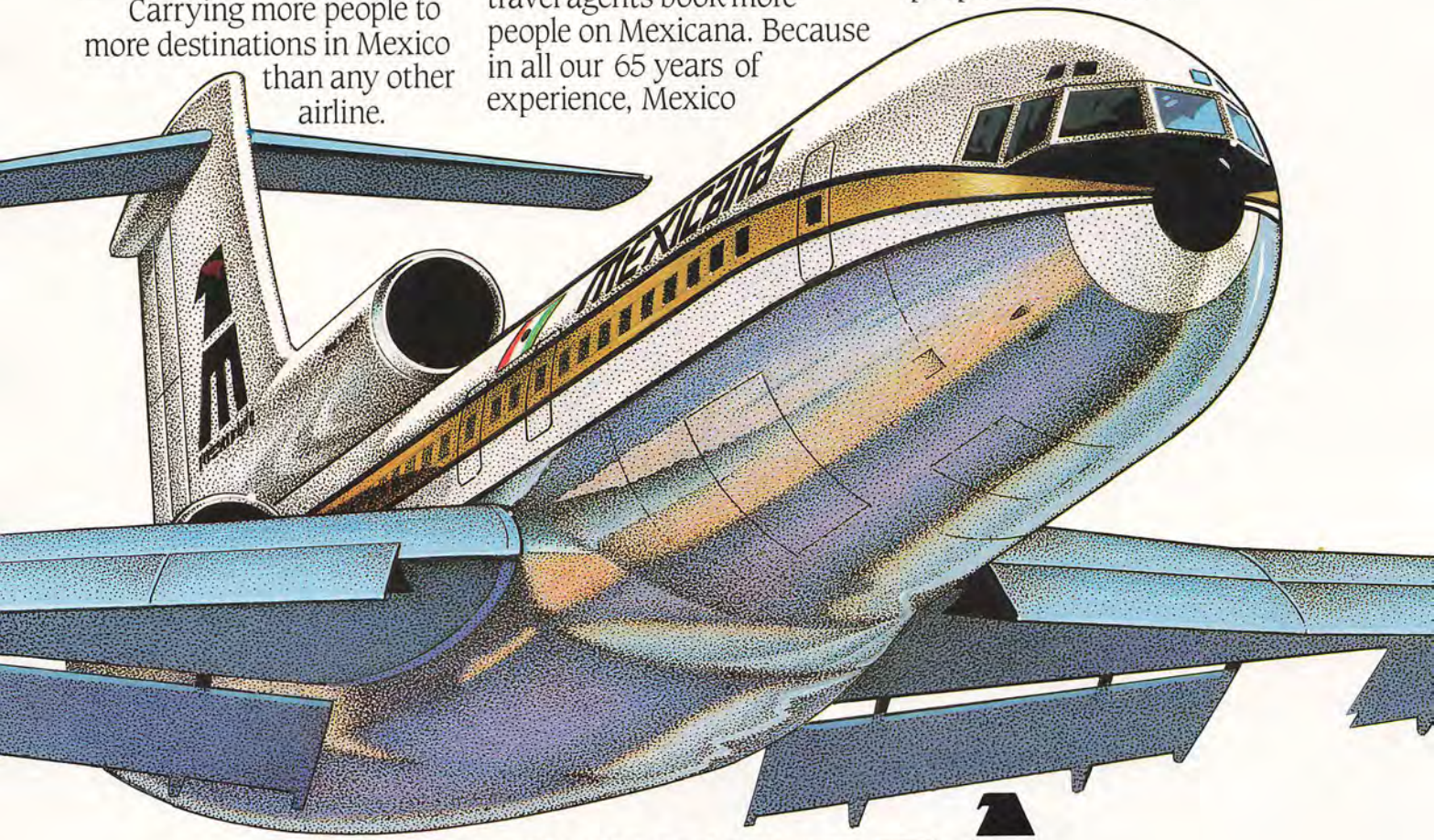

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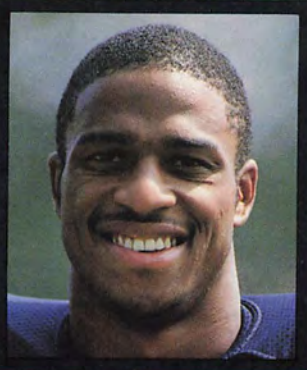
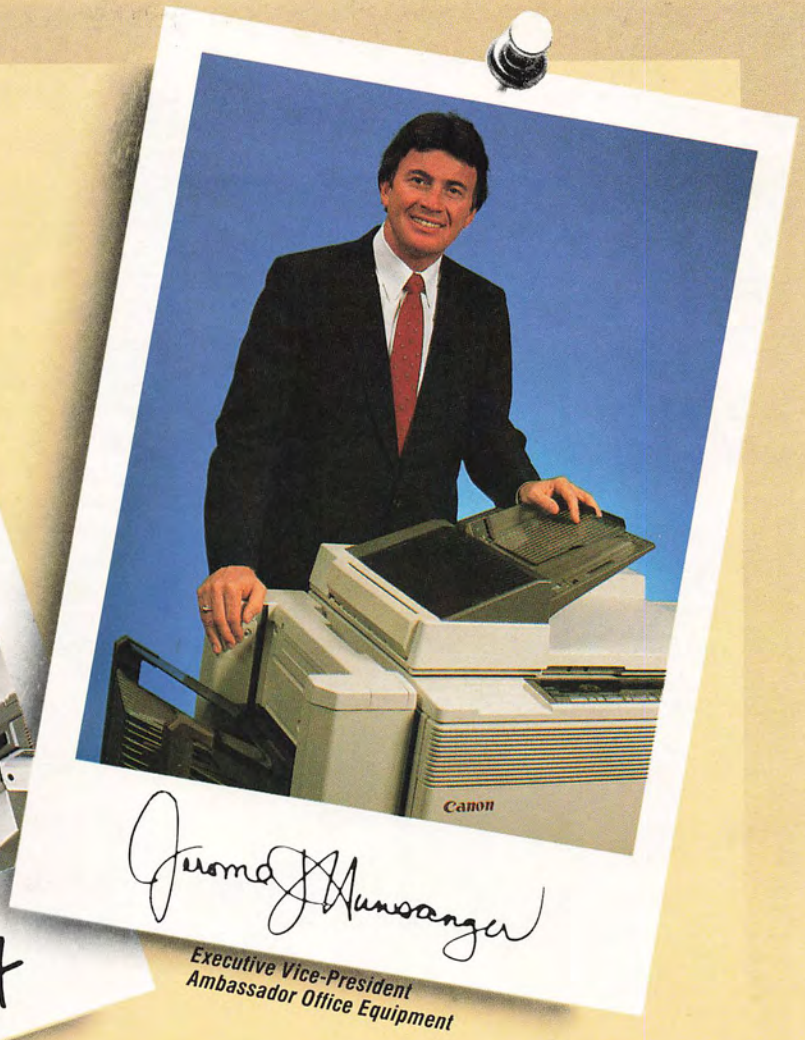
83

Willie Gault, Wide Receiver

4th Year, Tennessee, Ht: 6′ 1″, Wt: 183, Age: 25,
Hometown: Griffin, GA

"He's one of just a handful of players in pro football who can turn a game around in one play. His TD (99-yard kick-off return) against the Redskins changed the game around like I've never seen a game turned around before."
— Jim McMahon





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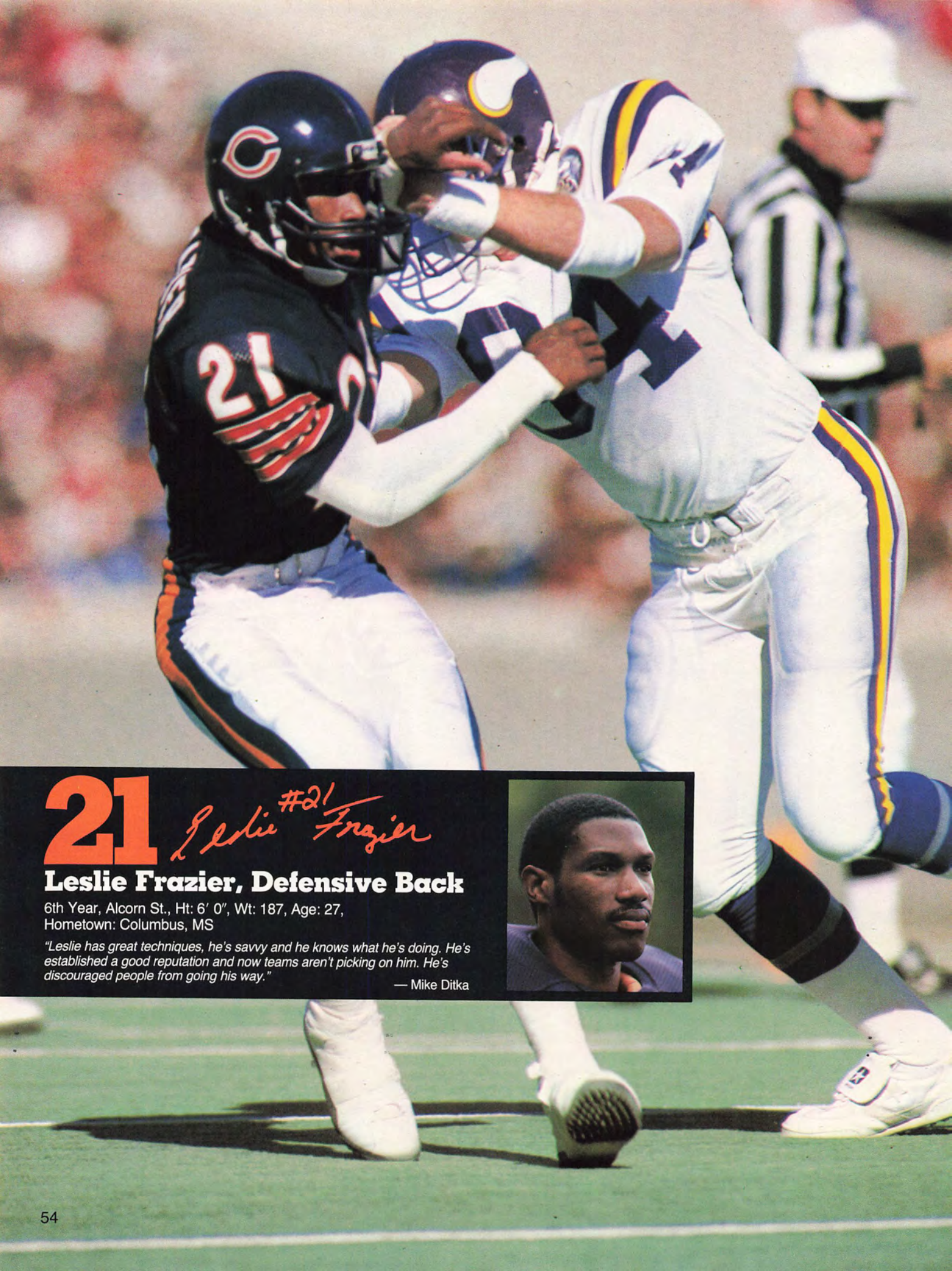

21

Leslie #21 Frazier

Leslie Frazier, Defensive Back

6th Year, Alcorn St., Ht: 6′ 0″, Wt: 187, Age: 27,
Hometown: Columbus, MS

"Leslie has great techniques, he's savvy and he knows what he's doing. He's established a good reputation and now teams aren't picking on him. He's discouraged people from going his way."

— Mike Ditka

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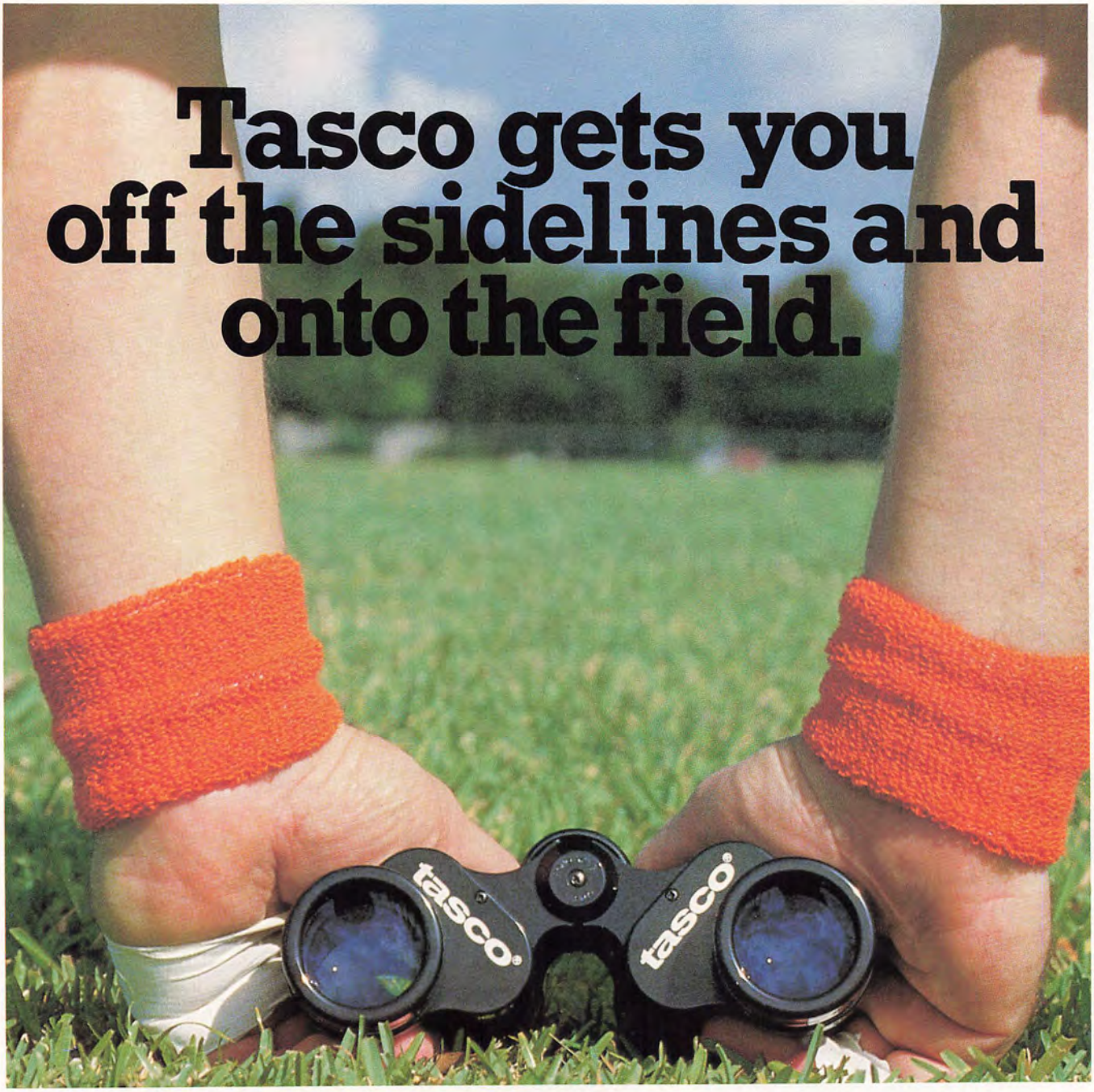

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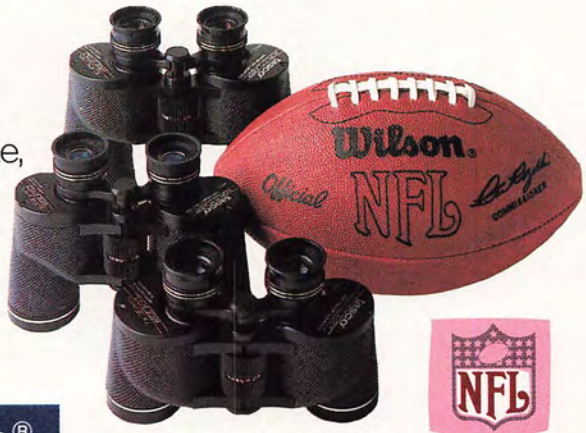

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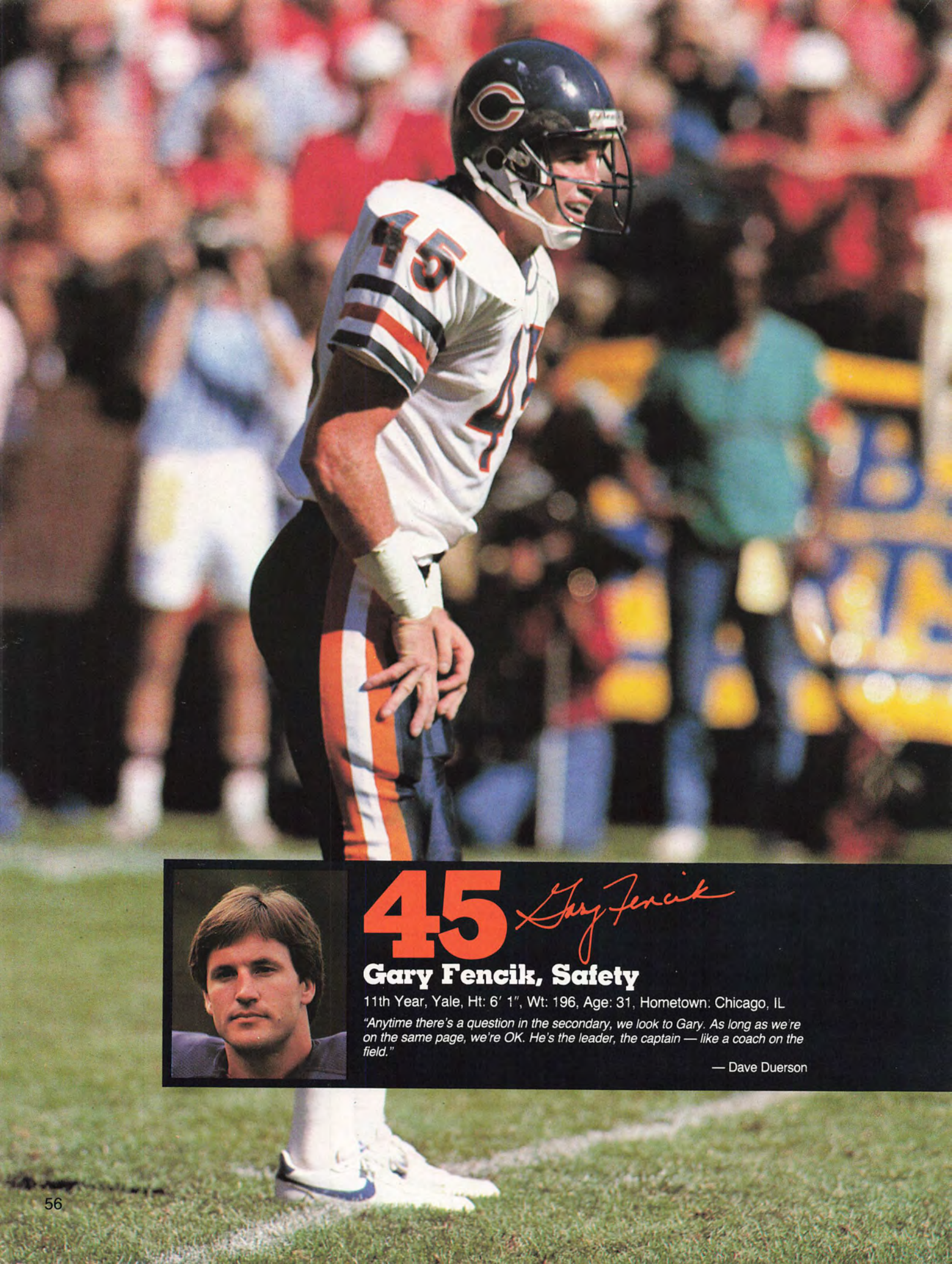

45 Gary Fencik

Gary Fencik, Safety

11th Year, Yale, Ht: 6′ 1″, Wt: 196, Age: 31, Hometown: Chicago, IL

"Anytime there's a question in the secondary, we look to Gary. As long as we're on the same page, we're OK. He's the leader, the captain — like a coach on the field."

— Dave Duerson

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Please send me _____ NFL Team Caps. (One size fits all.) For **each** cap ordered, I have enclosed a check or money order for $2.99 (postage and handling included; NY residents add appropriate sales tax) plus 1 Proof of Purchase* from any of these NFL Locker Room Products: Consort Aerosol Hairspray, Consort Pump Hairspray or Consort Mousse.

Team Cap	Quantity
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(Please Print)

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*Proof of Purchase is cash register receipt with Consort purchase price circled and UPC code. Below, please complete the UPC of the Consort product you purchased. 2.6 oz. and 2 oz. travel size purchases are also acceptable for this offer.

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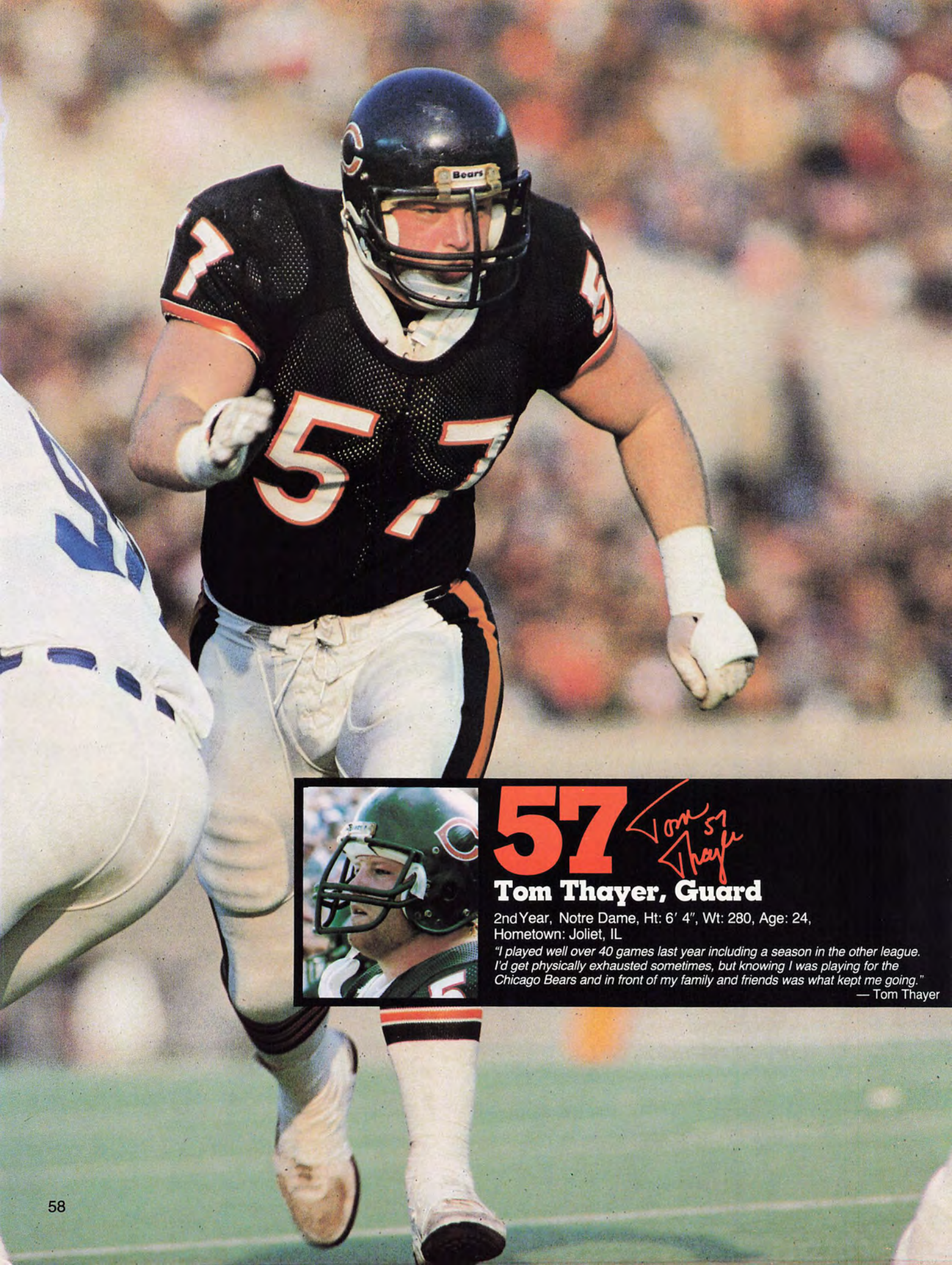

57

Tom Thayer, Guard

2nd Year, Notre Dame, Ht: 6′ 4″, Wt: 280, Age: 24,
Hometown: Joliet, IL

"I played well over 40 games last year including a season in the other league. I'd get physically exhausted sometimes, but knowing I was playing for the Chicago Bears and in front of my family and friends was what kept me going."
— Tom Thayer

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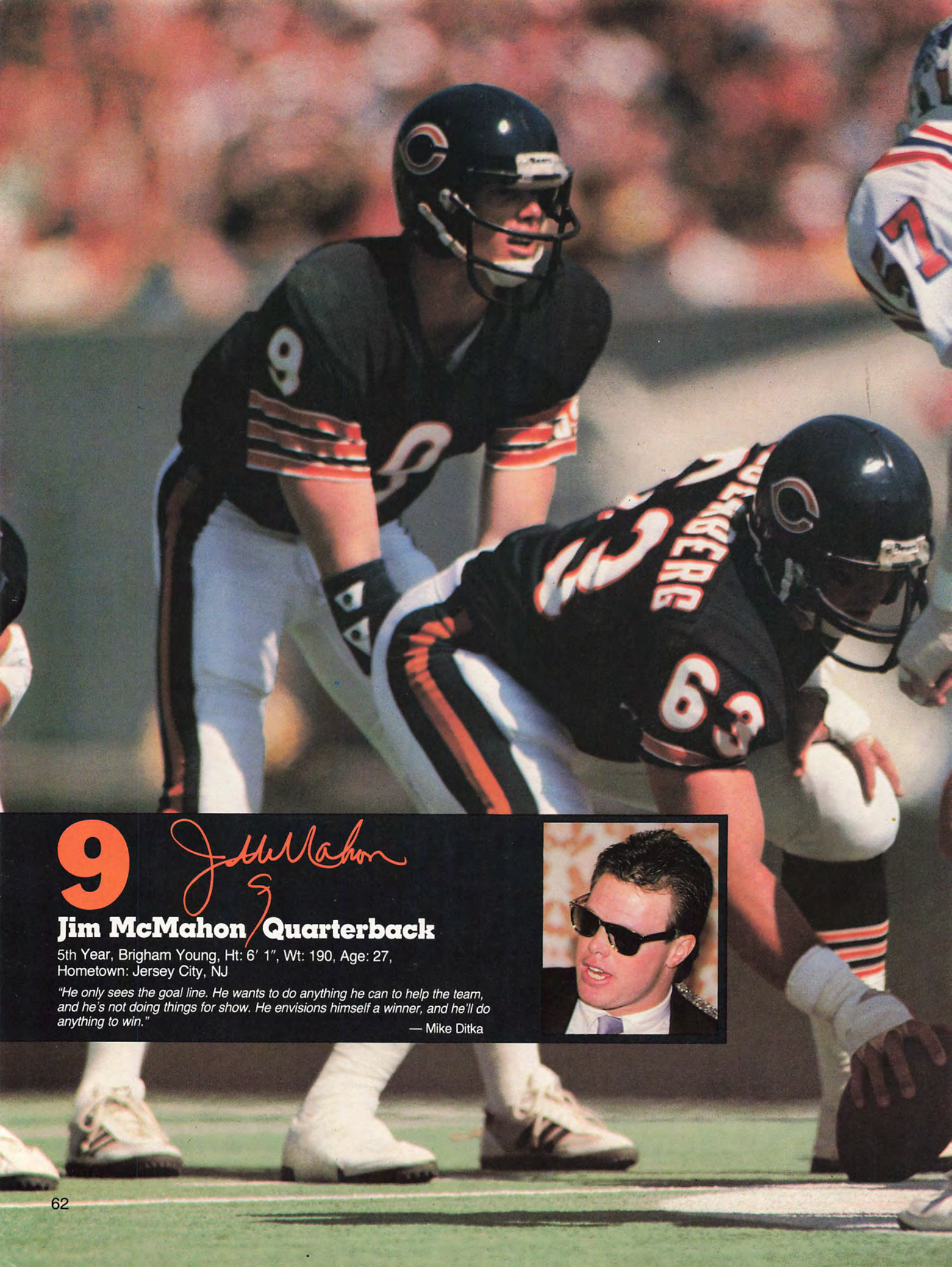


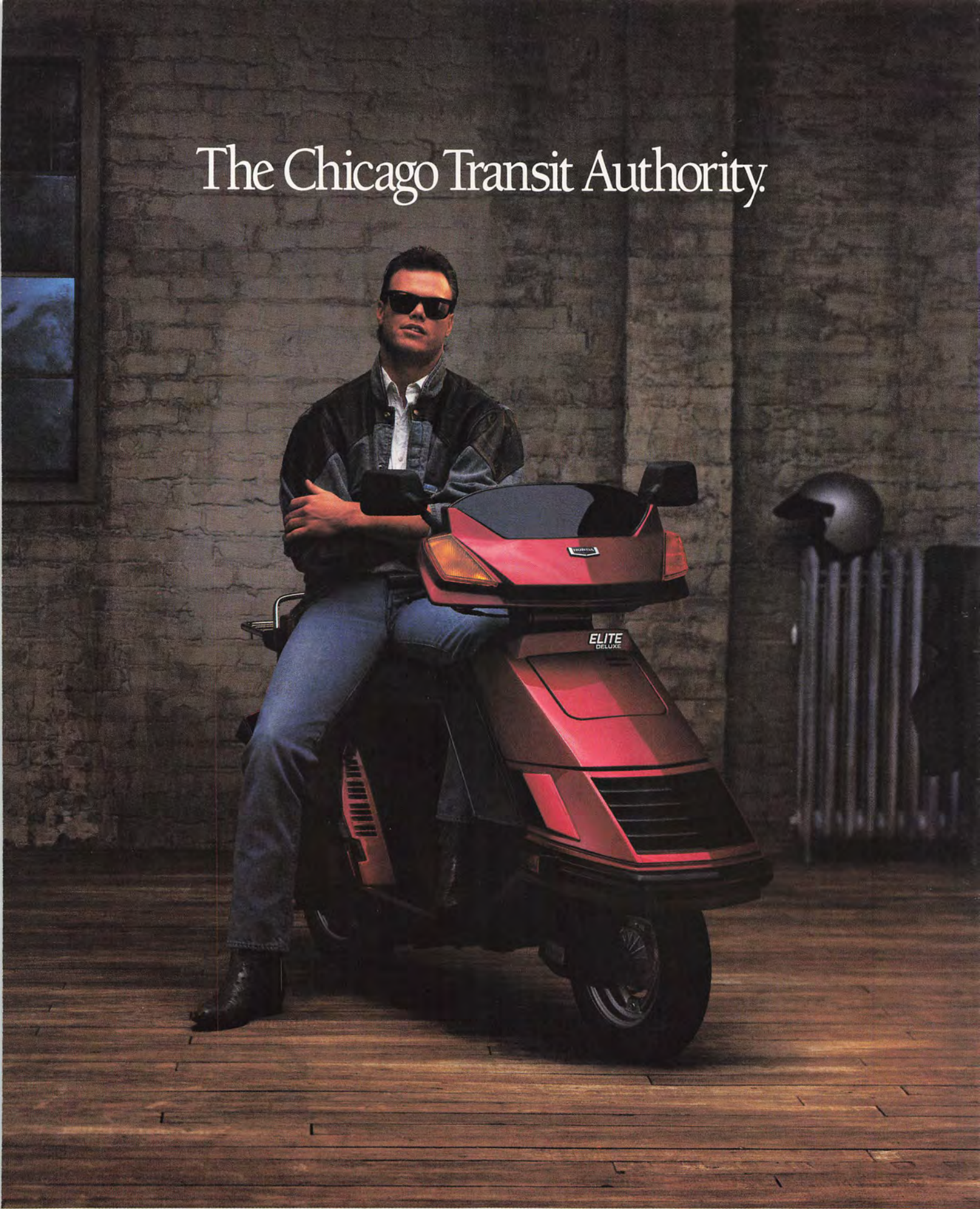
9

Jim McMahon / Quarterback

5th Year, Brigham Young, Ht: 6′ 1″, Wt: 190, Age: 27,
Hometown: Jersey City, NJ

"He only sees the goal line. He wants to do anything he can to help the team, and he's not doing things for show. He envisions himself a winner, and he'll do anything to win."

— Mike Ditka



Jim McMahon 1986

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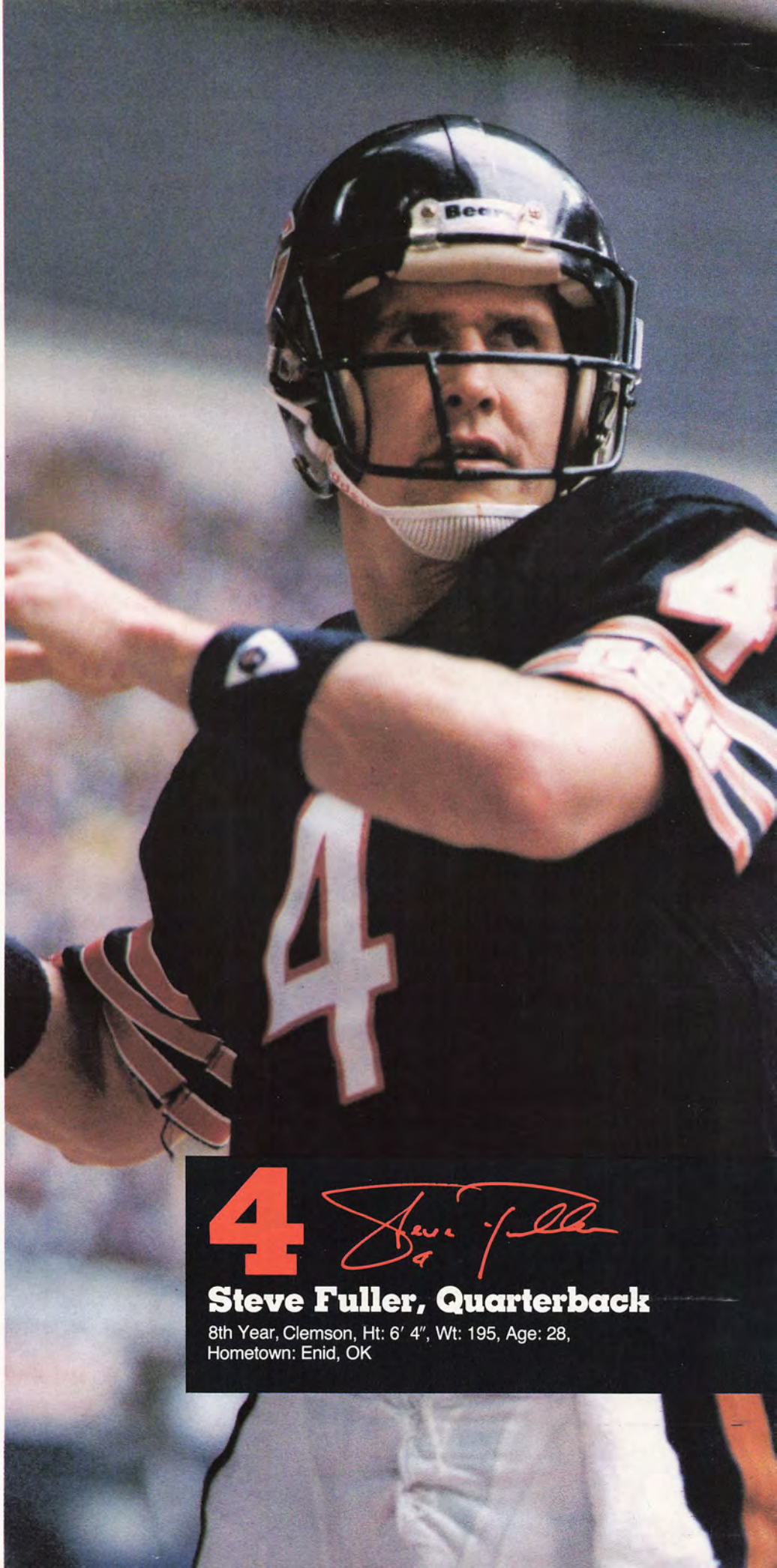

4

Steve Fuller, Quarterback

8th Year, Clemson, Ht: 6′ 4″, Wt: 195, Age: 28,
Hometown: Enid, OK

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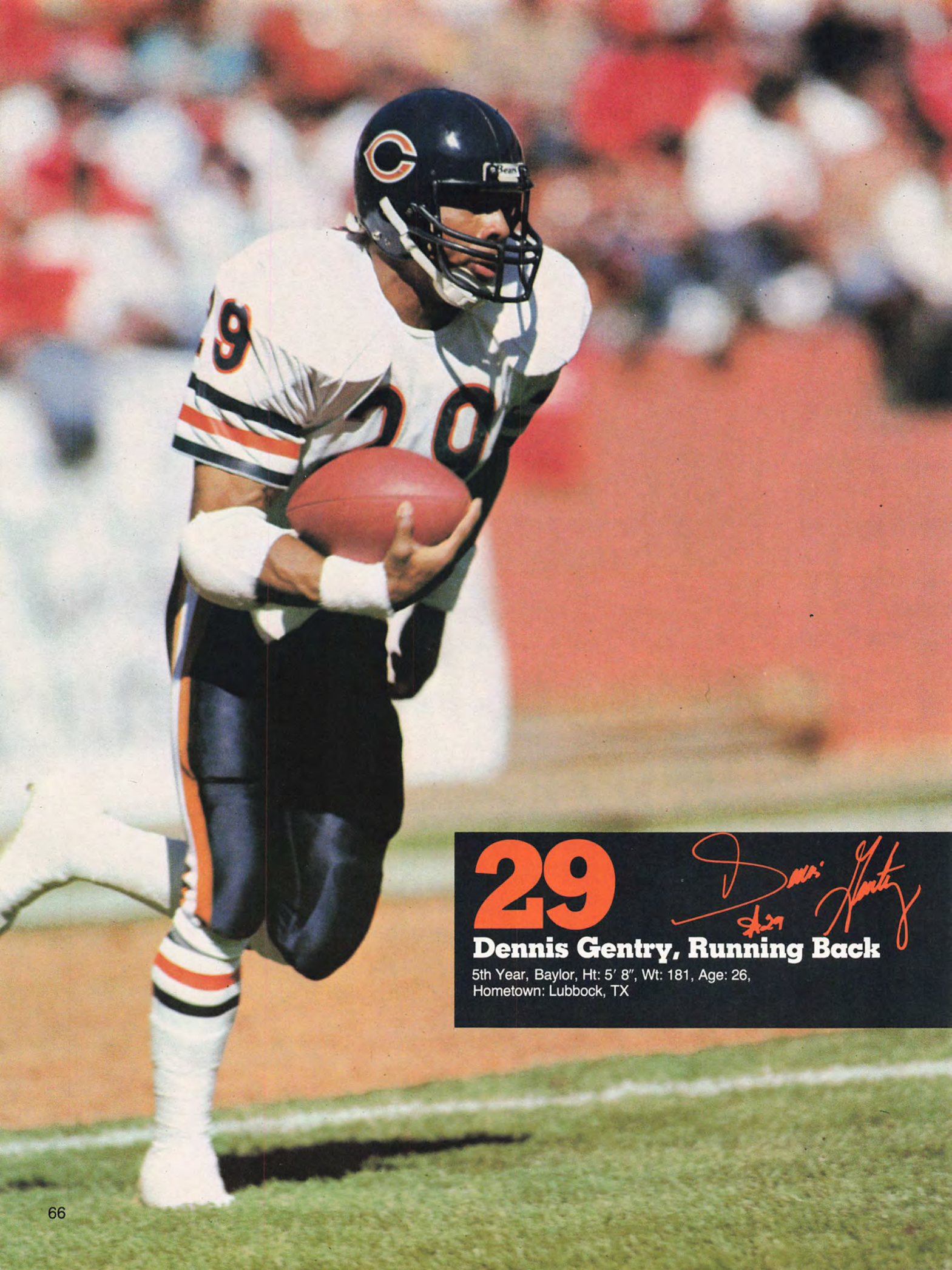

29

Dennis Gentry, Running Back

5th Year, Baylor, Ht: 5′ 8″, Wt: 181, Age: 26,
Hometown: Lubbock, TX

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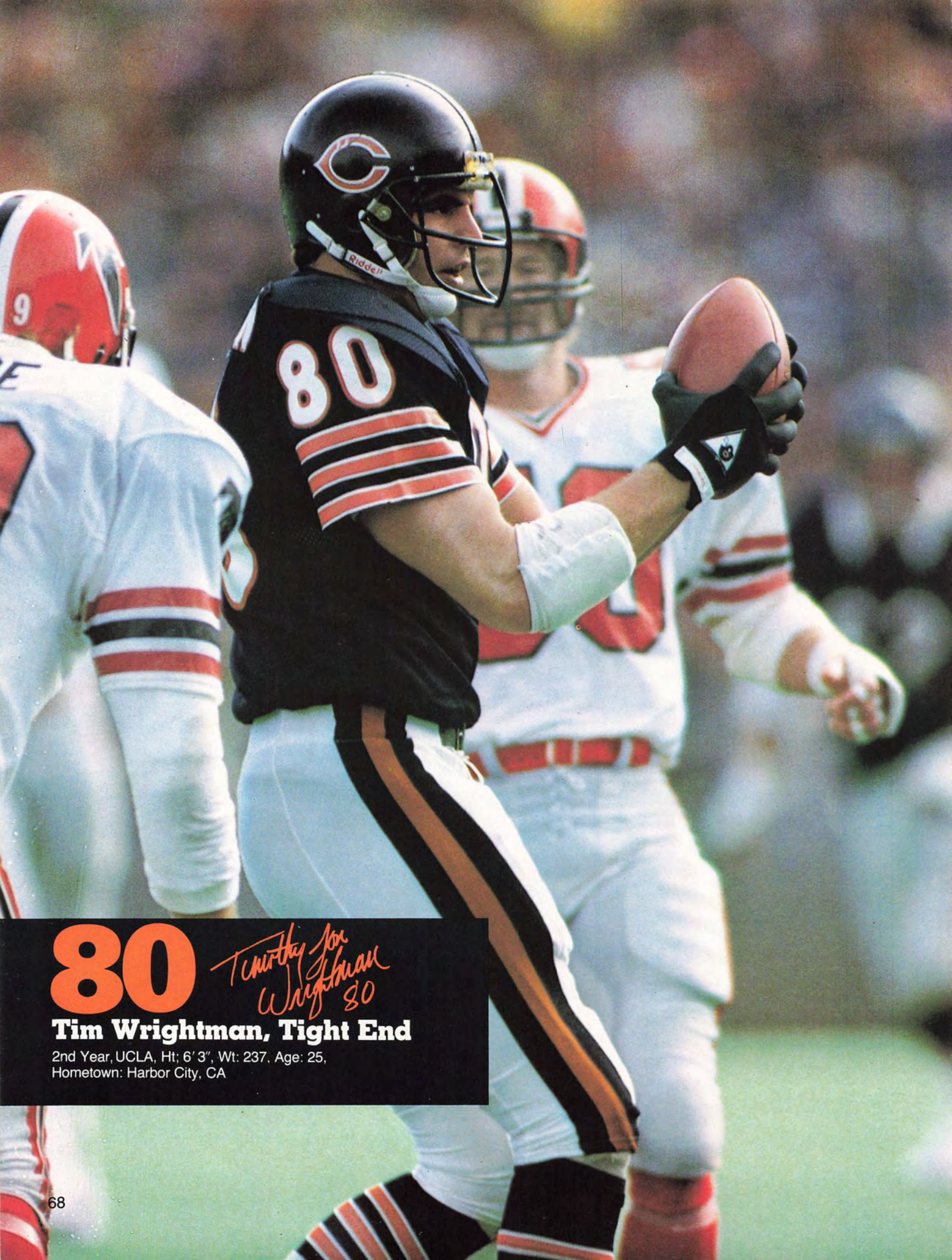
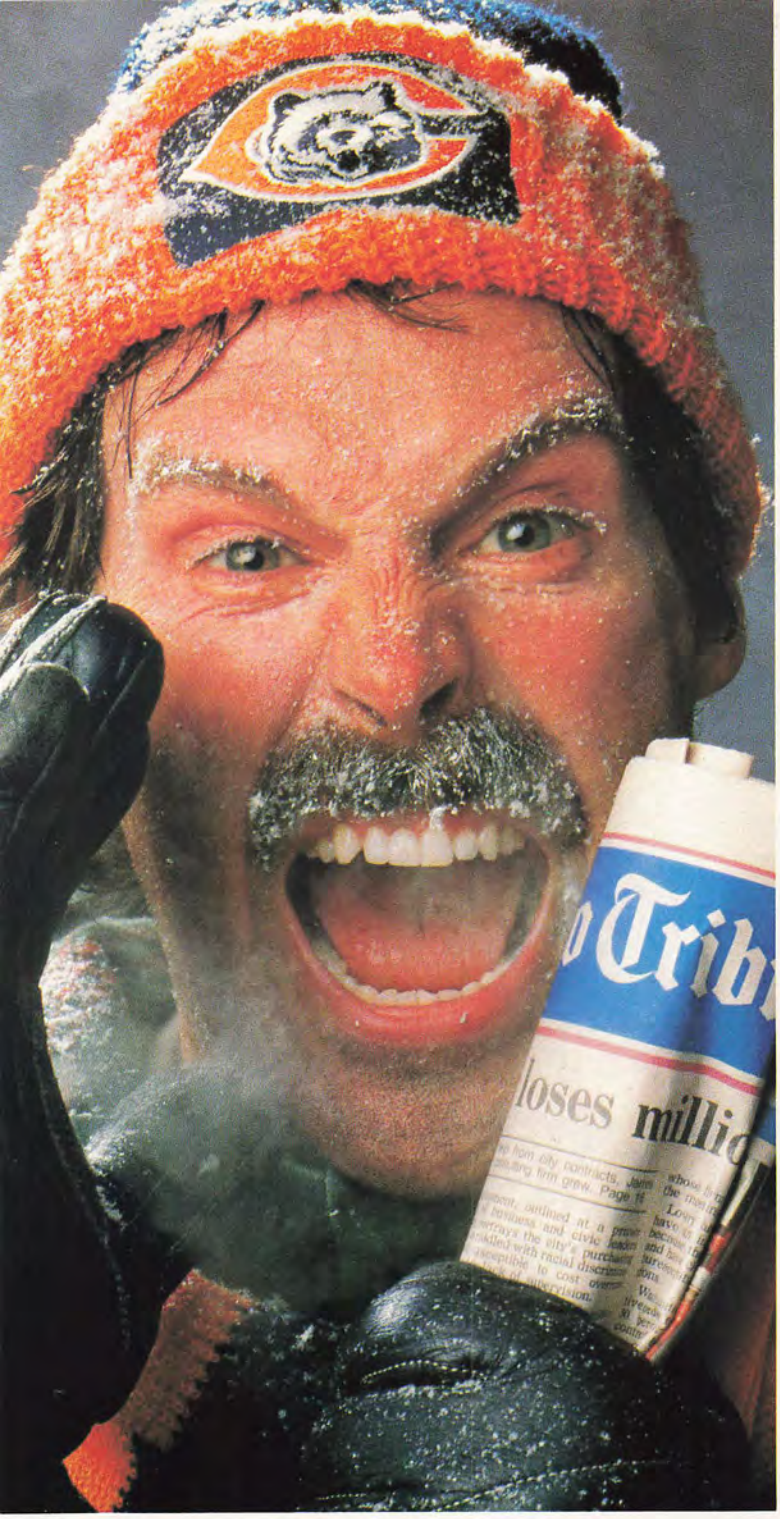


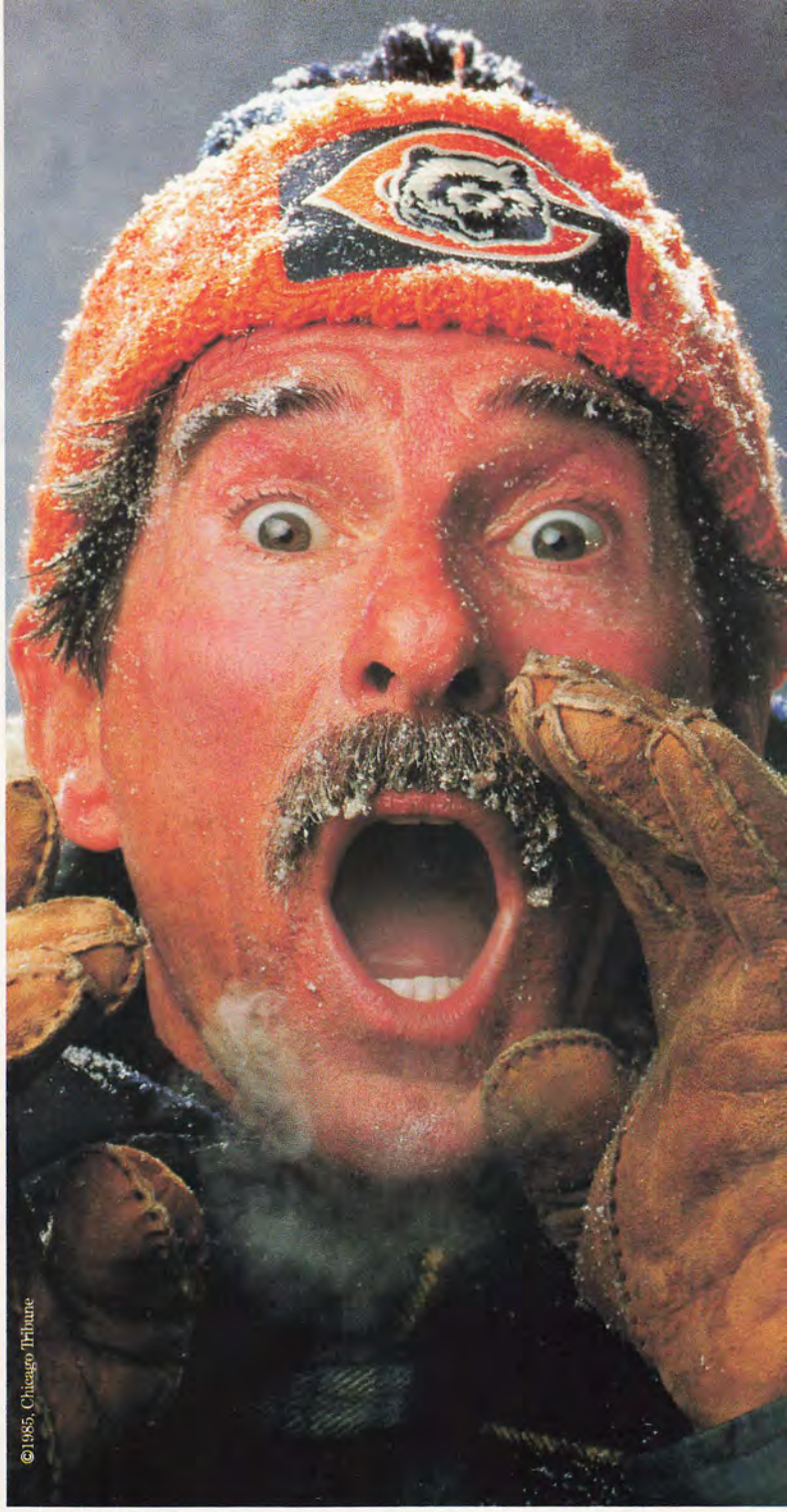
80

Timothy Jon Wrightman 80

Tim Wrightman, Tight End

2nd Year, UCLA, Ht; 6′ 3″, Wt: 237, Age: 25,
Hometown: Harbor City, CA





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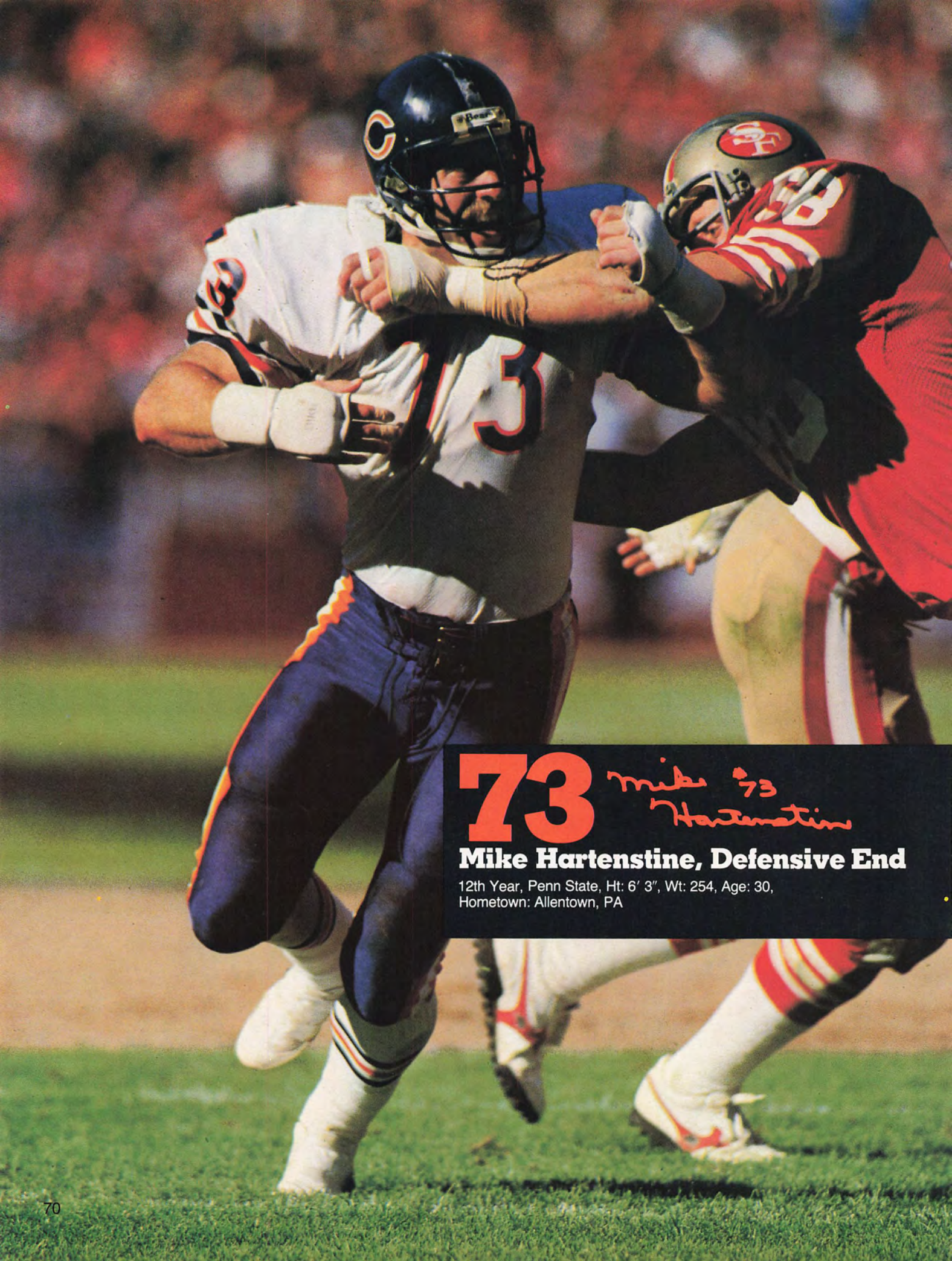

73

Mike Hartenstine, Defensive End

12th Year, Penn State, Ht: 6′ 3″, Wt: 254, Age: 30,
Hometown: Allentown, PA

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6

Kevin Butler, Kicker

2nd Year, Georgia, Ht: 6′ 1″, Wt: 204, Age: 23, Hometown: Atlanta, GA

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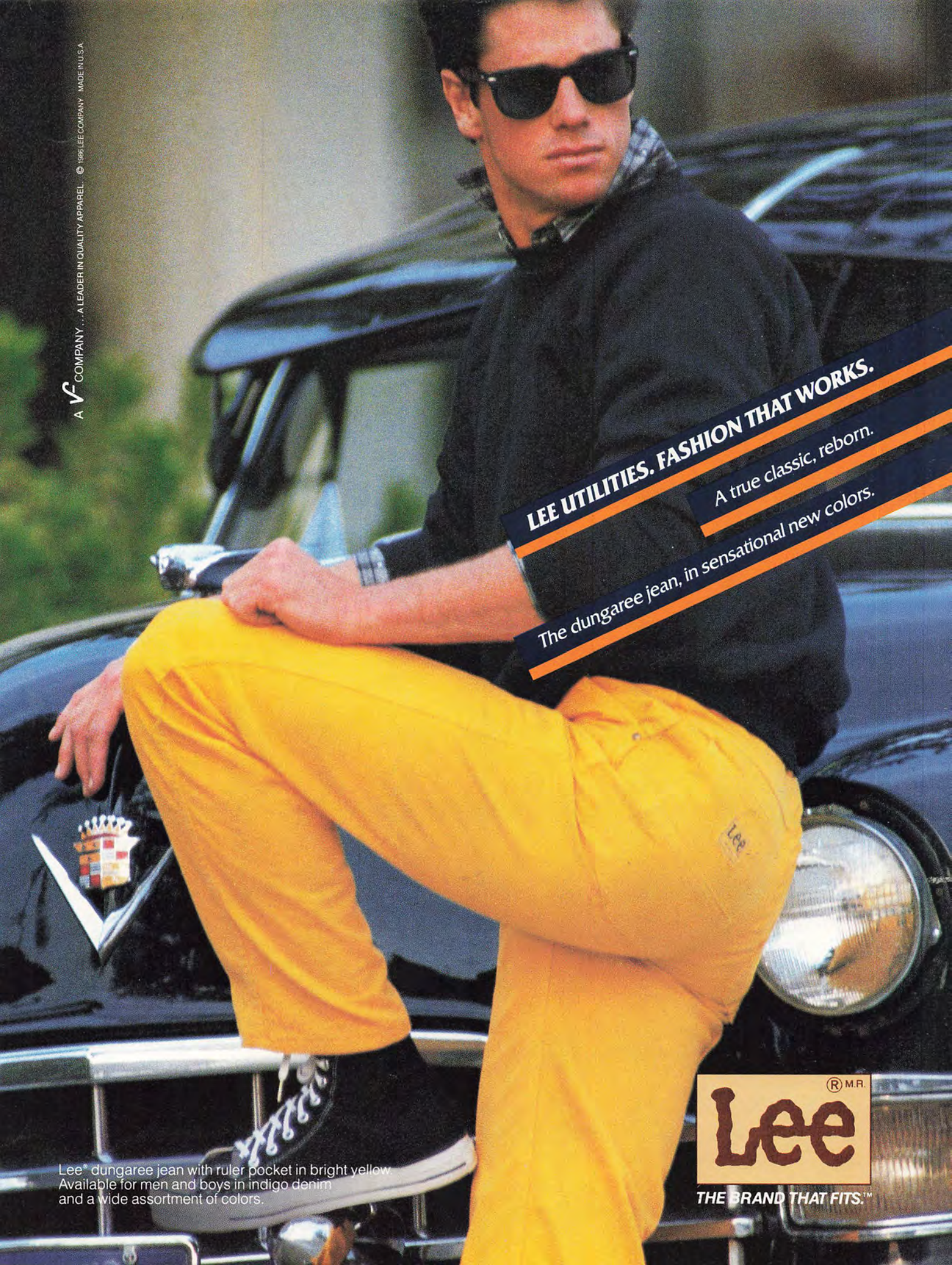
— Steve Kazor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8 Maury Buford — #8

Maury Buford, Punter

5th Year, Texas Tech, Ht: 6′ 1″, Wt: 191, Age: 26,
Hometown: Port Arthur, TX

"I didn't know what to think about being traded to the Bears at first. But I could tell as soon as I got here there was unity and a real sense of purpose to succeed. Being traded to this team was the best thing that ever happened to me."
— Maury Buford

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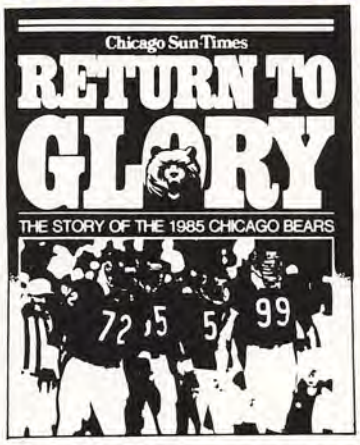

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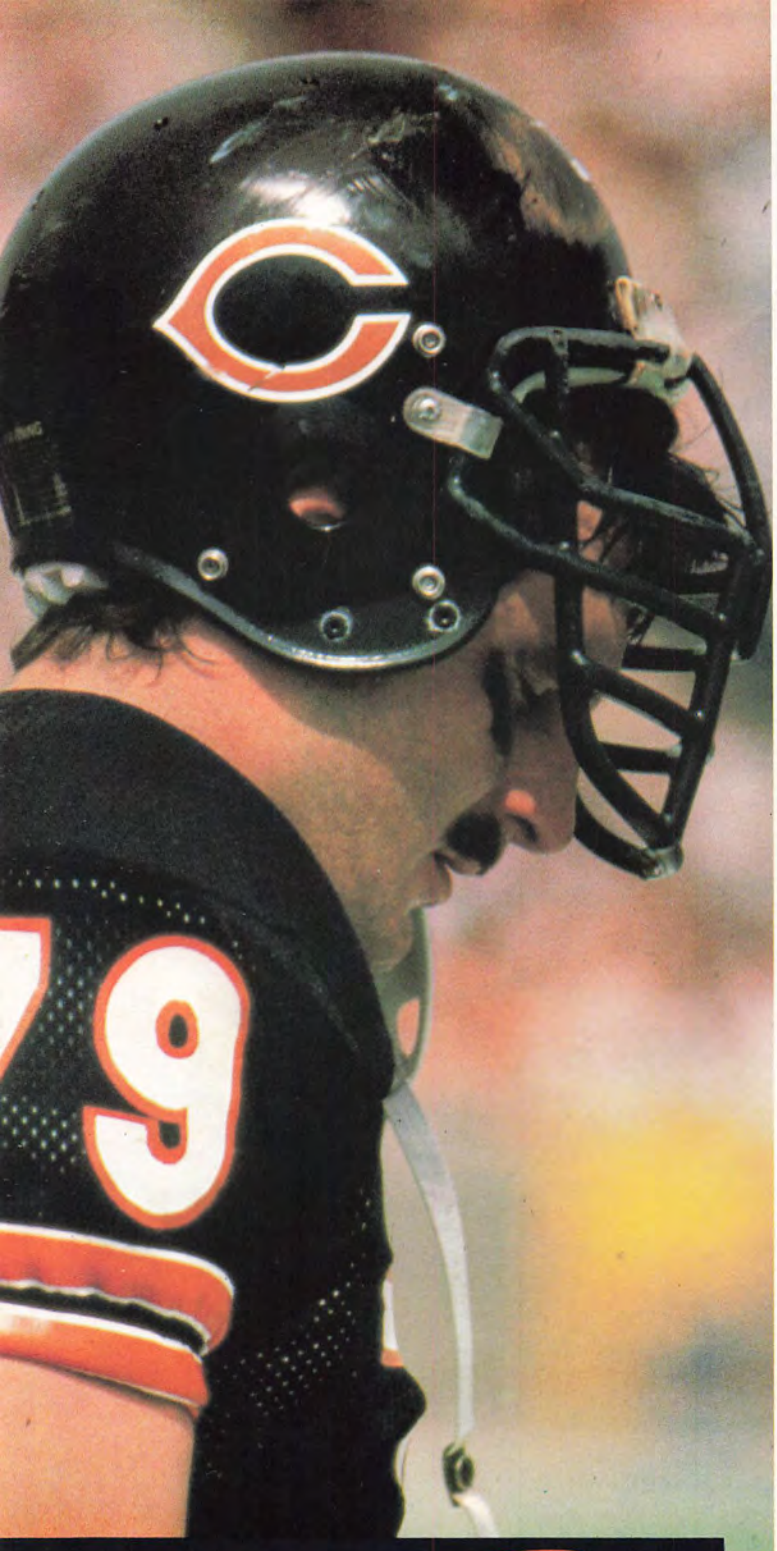
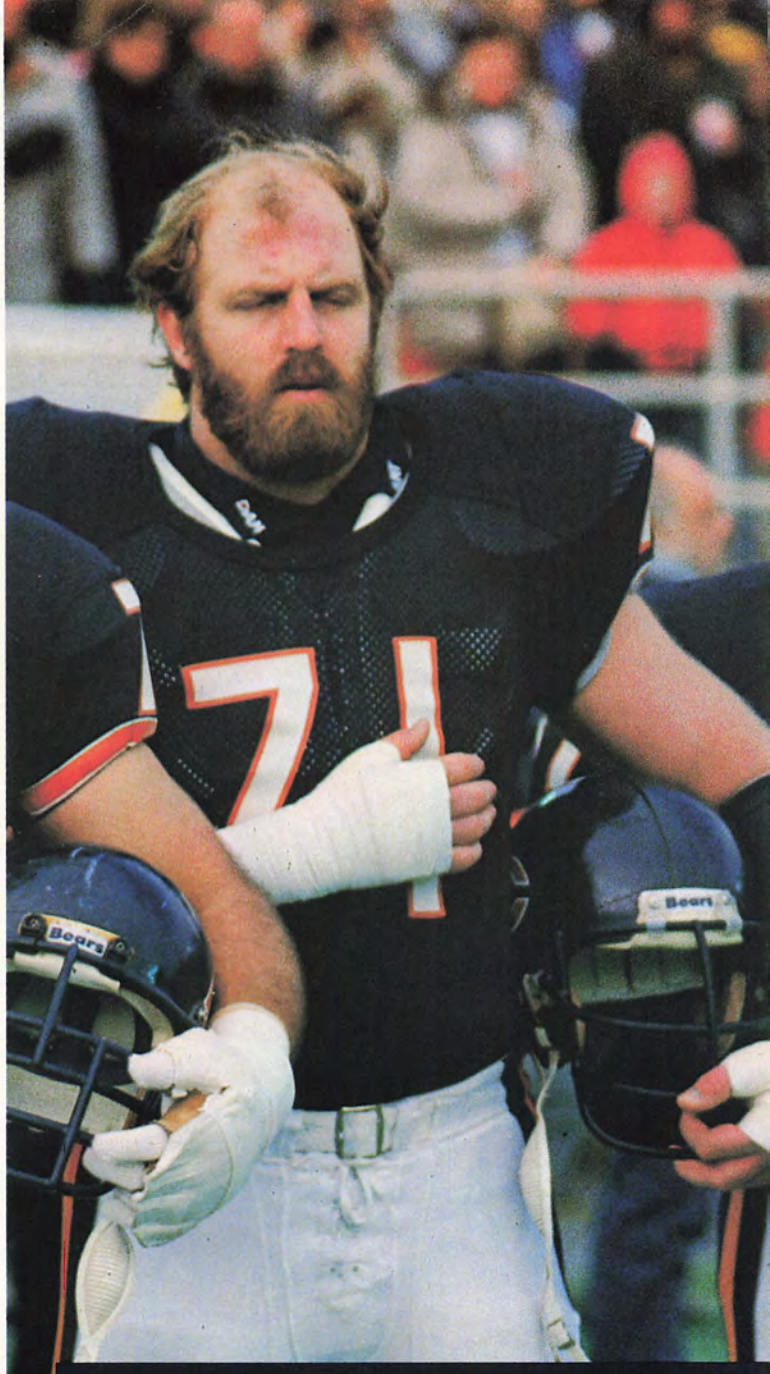


79

Kurt Becker, Guard

5th Year, Michigan, Ht: 6' 5", Wt: 267, Age: 28,
Hometown: Aurora, IL



71

Andy Frederick, Tackle

10th Year, New Mexico, Ht: 6' 6", Wt: 265, Age: 31,
Hometown: Oak Park, Il

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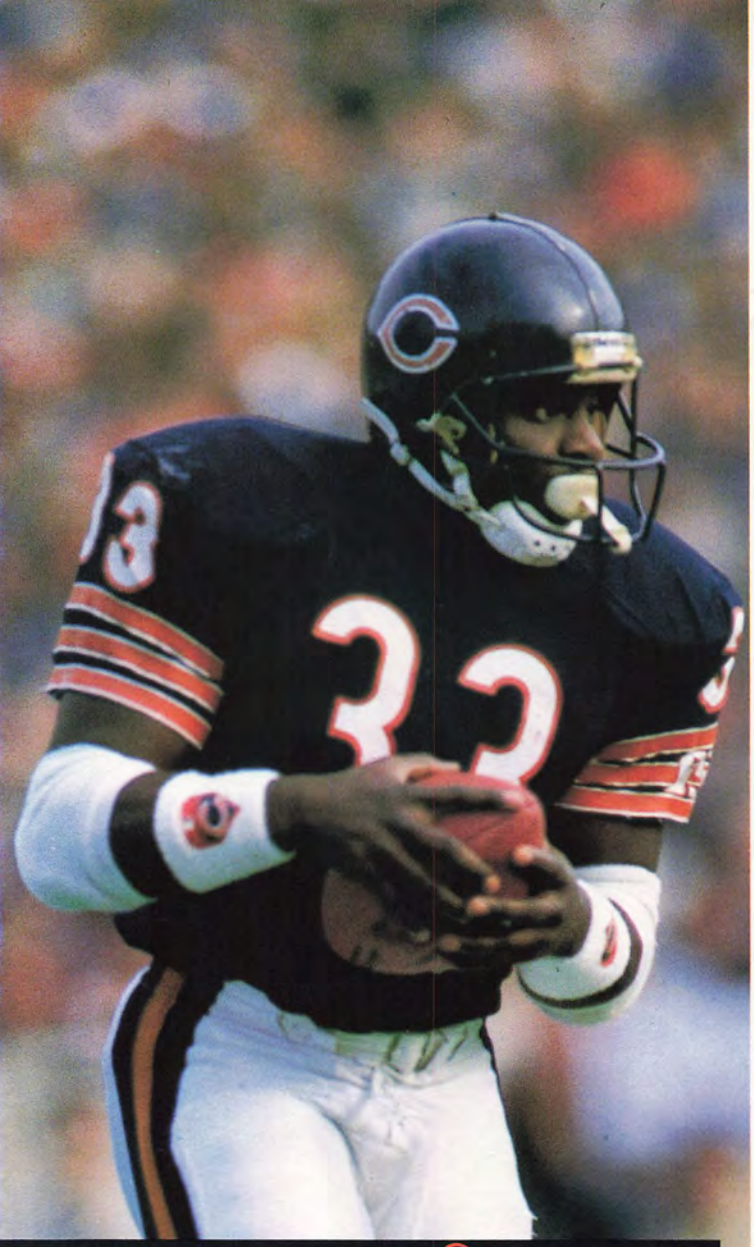
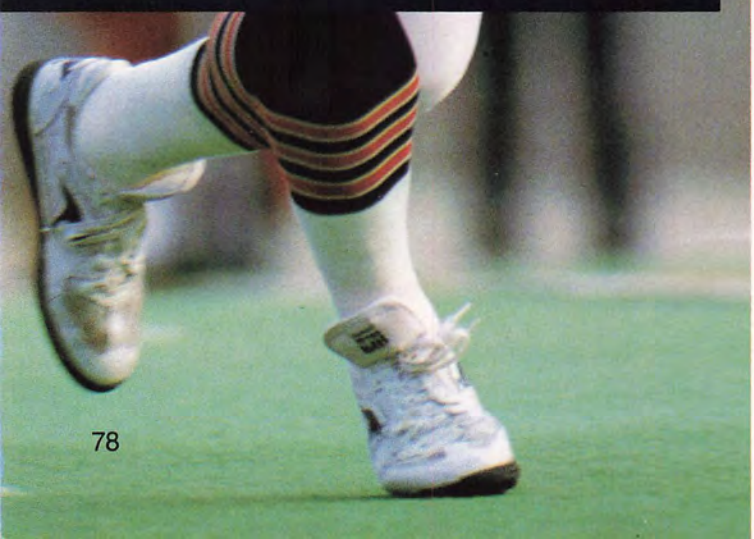
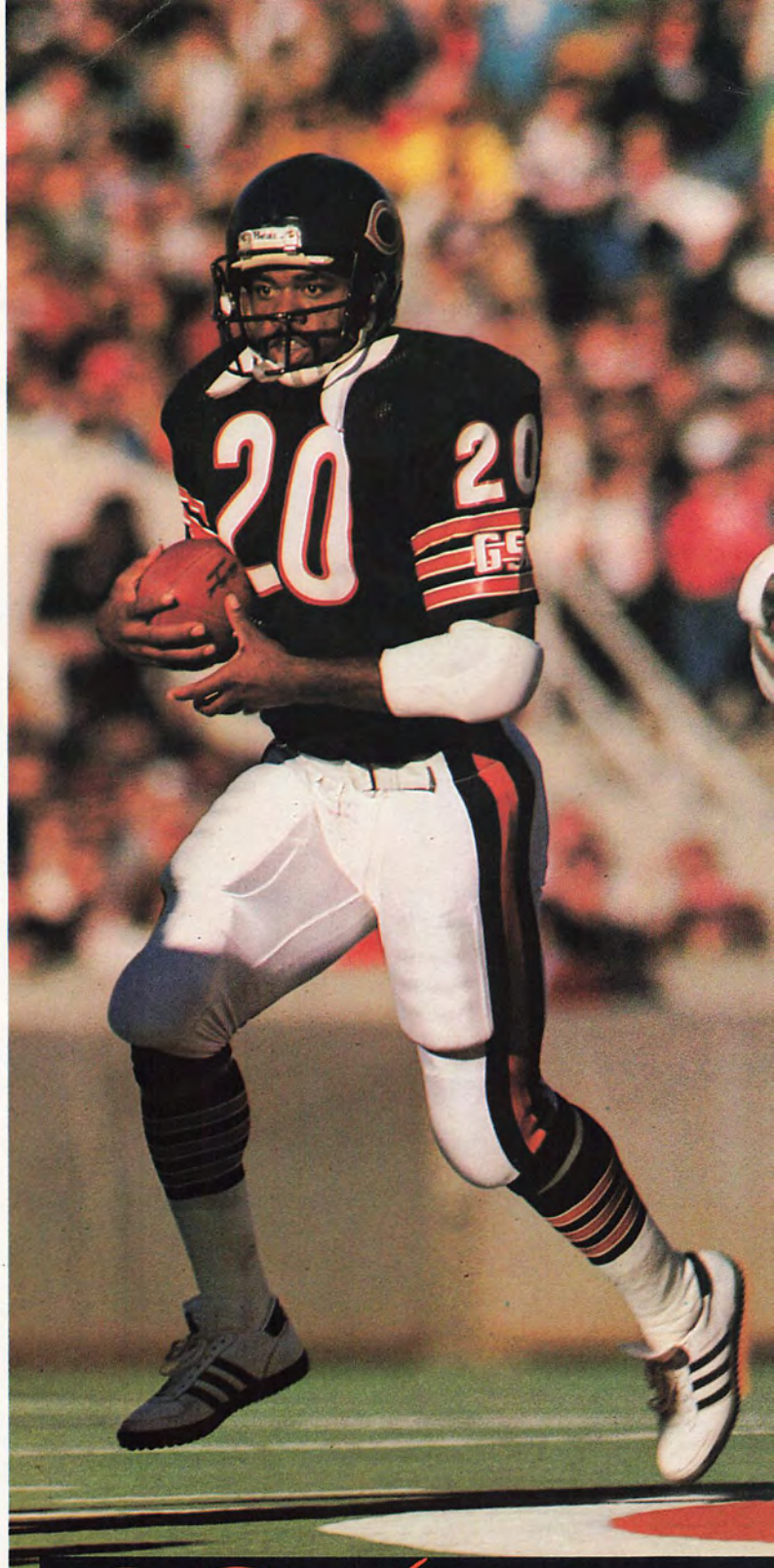


33 Calvin Thomas

Calvin Thomas, Running Back

5th Year, Illinois, Ht: 5′ 11″, Wt: 245, Age: 25,
Hometown: St. Louis, MO





20 Thomas Sanders

Thomas Sanders, Running Back

2nd Year,Texas A&M, Ht: 5″ 11″, Wt: 203, Age: 23,
Hometown: Giddings, TX

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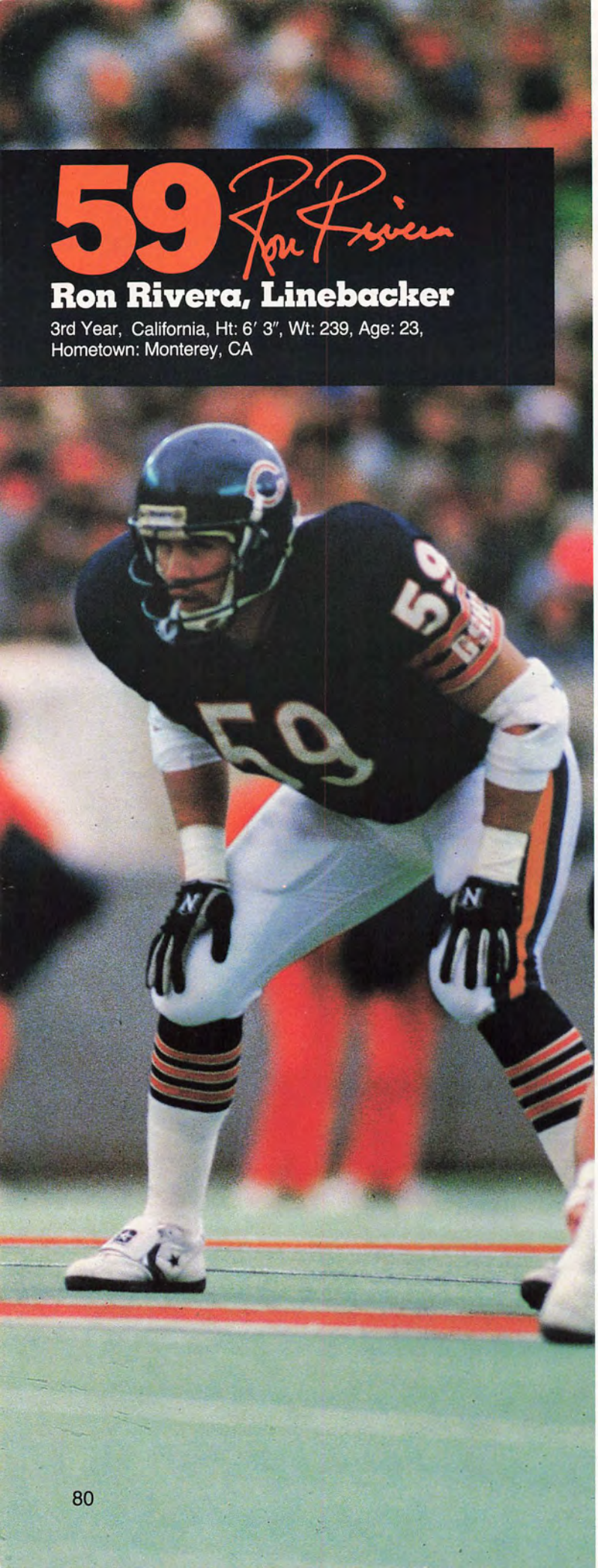
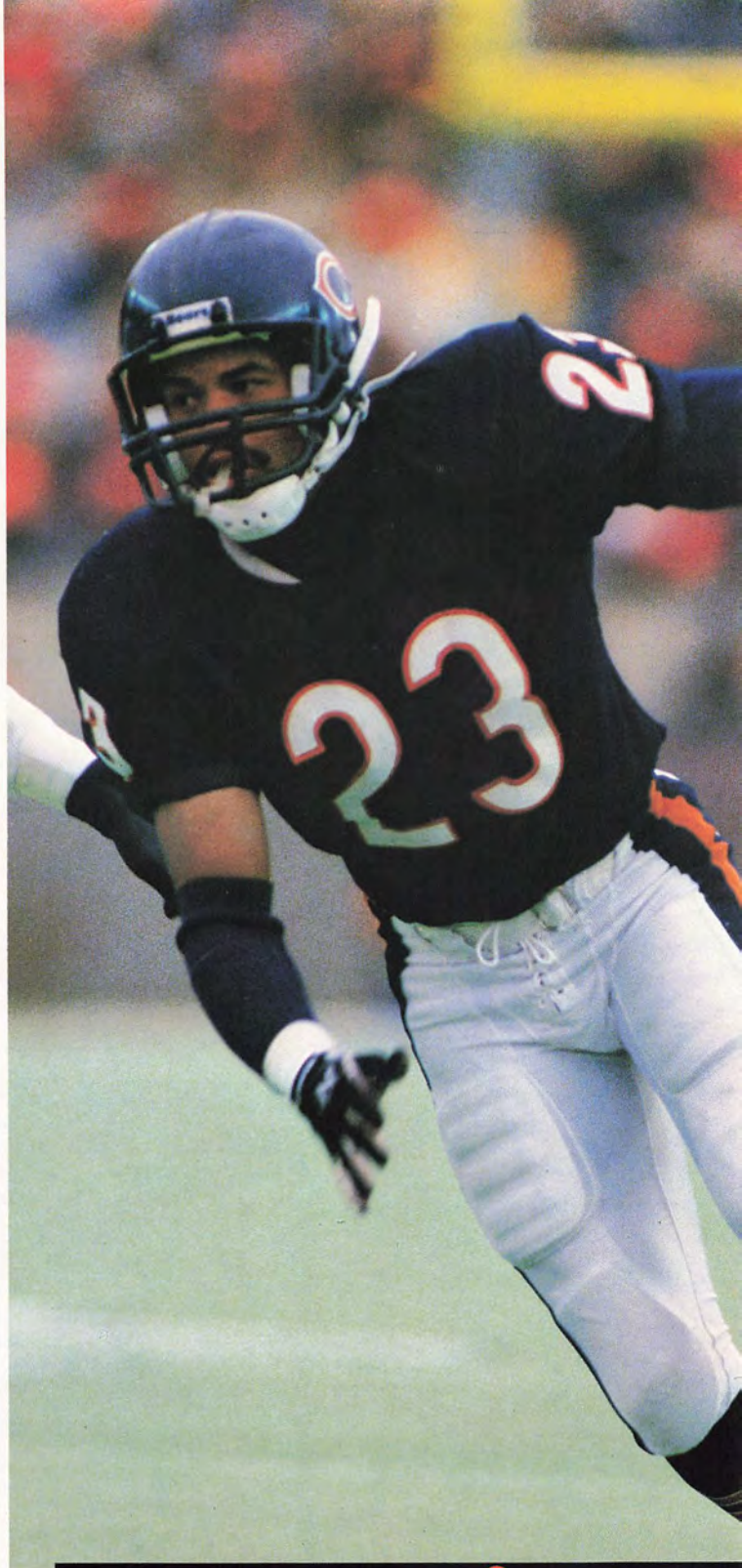


59 Ron Rivera

Ron Rivera, Linebacker

3rd Year, California, Ht: 6′ 3″, Wt: 239, Age: 23,
Hometown: Monterey, CA



23 Shaun Gayle

Shaun Gayle, Cornerback

3rd Year, Ohio State, Ht: 5′ 11″, Wt: 193, Age: 23,
Hometown: Hampton, VA

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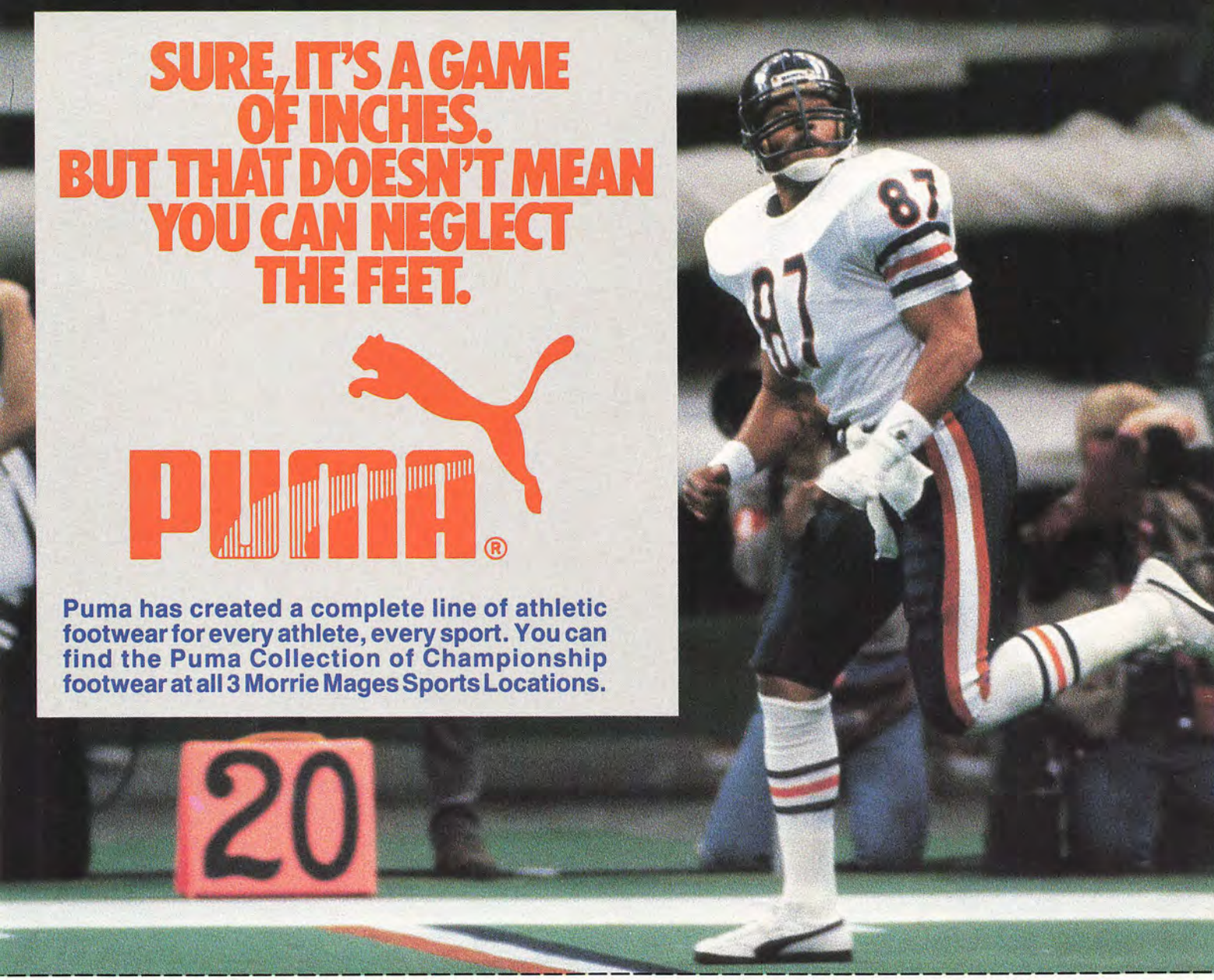

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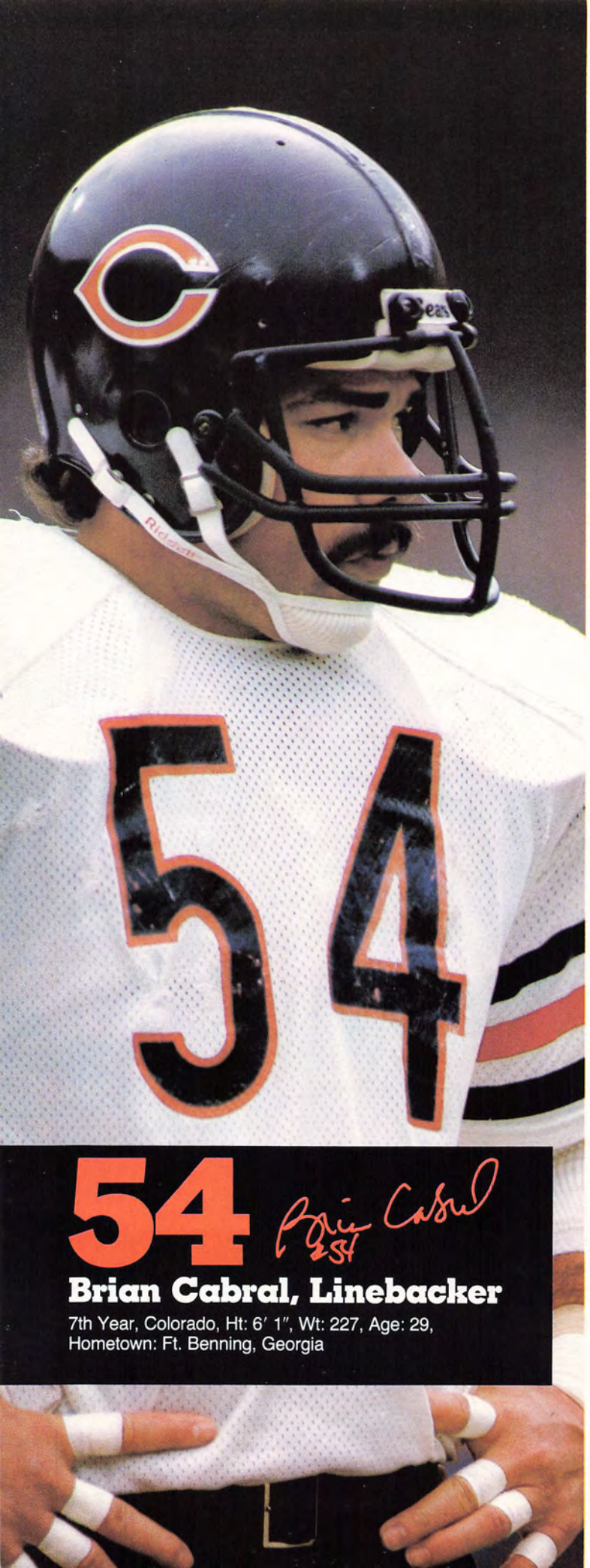

54 Brian Cabral

Brian Cabral, Linebacker

7th Year, Colorado, Ht: 6′ 1″, Wt: 227, Age: 29,
Hometown: Ft. Benning, Georgia

98 Tyrone Keys

Tyrone Keys, Defensive End

4th Year, Mississippi, Ht: 6′ 7″, Wt: 267, Age: 26,
Hometown: Brookhaven, MS

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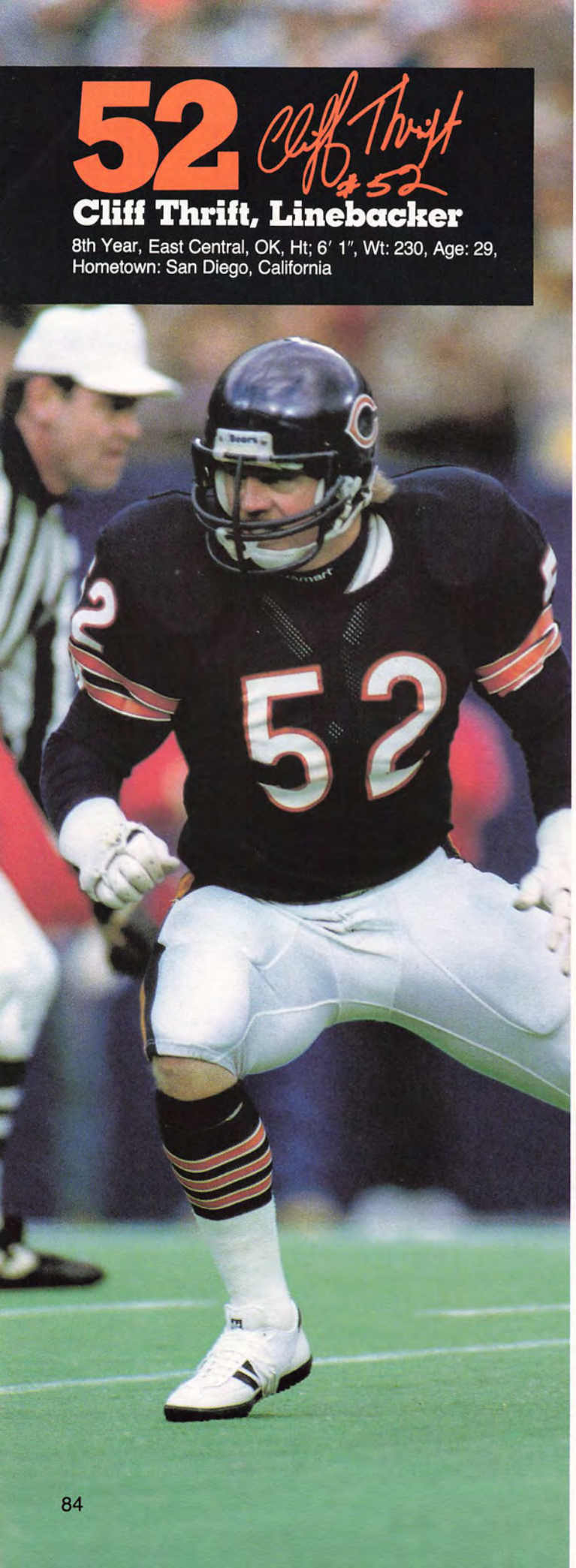
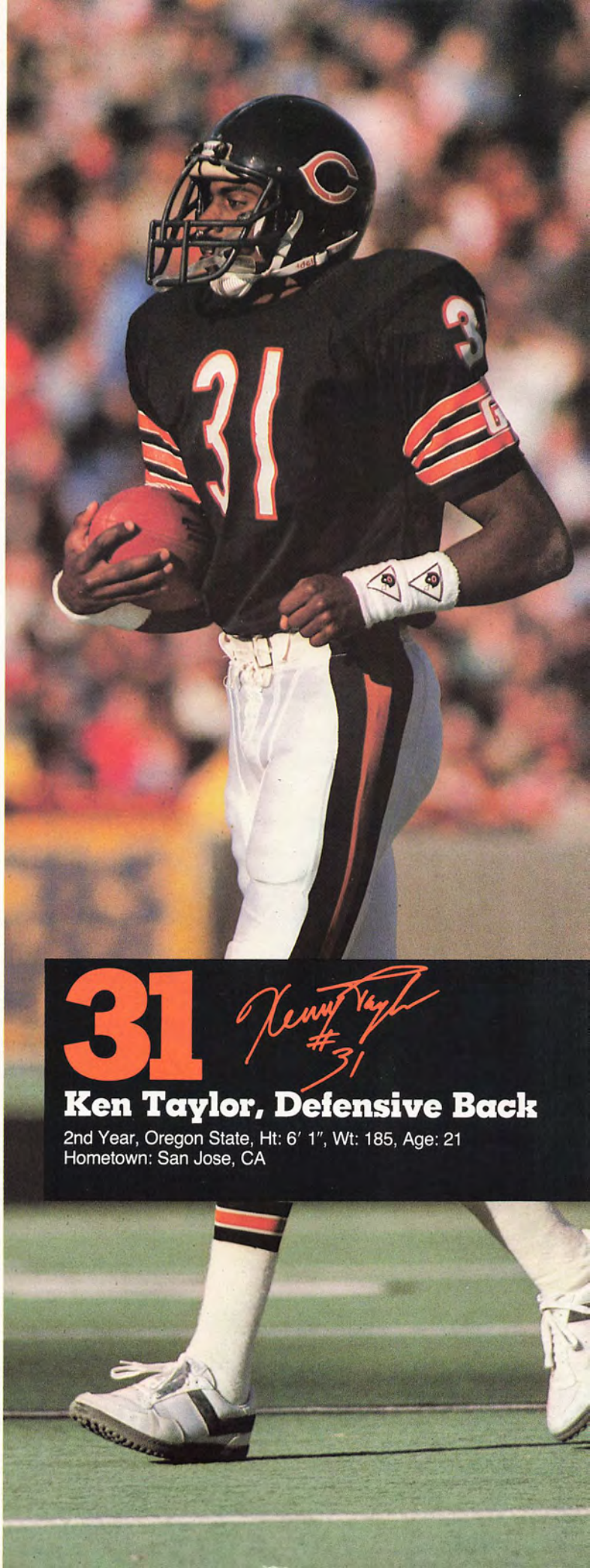


52 Cliff Thrift #52

Cliff Thrift, Linebacker

8th Year, East Central, OK, Ht; 6′ 1″, Wt: 230, Age: 29,
Hometown: San Diego, California



31 Kenny Taylor #31

Ken Taylor, Defensive Back

2nd Year, Oregon State, Ht: 6′ 1″, Wt: 185, Age: 21
Hometown: San Jose, CA

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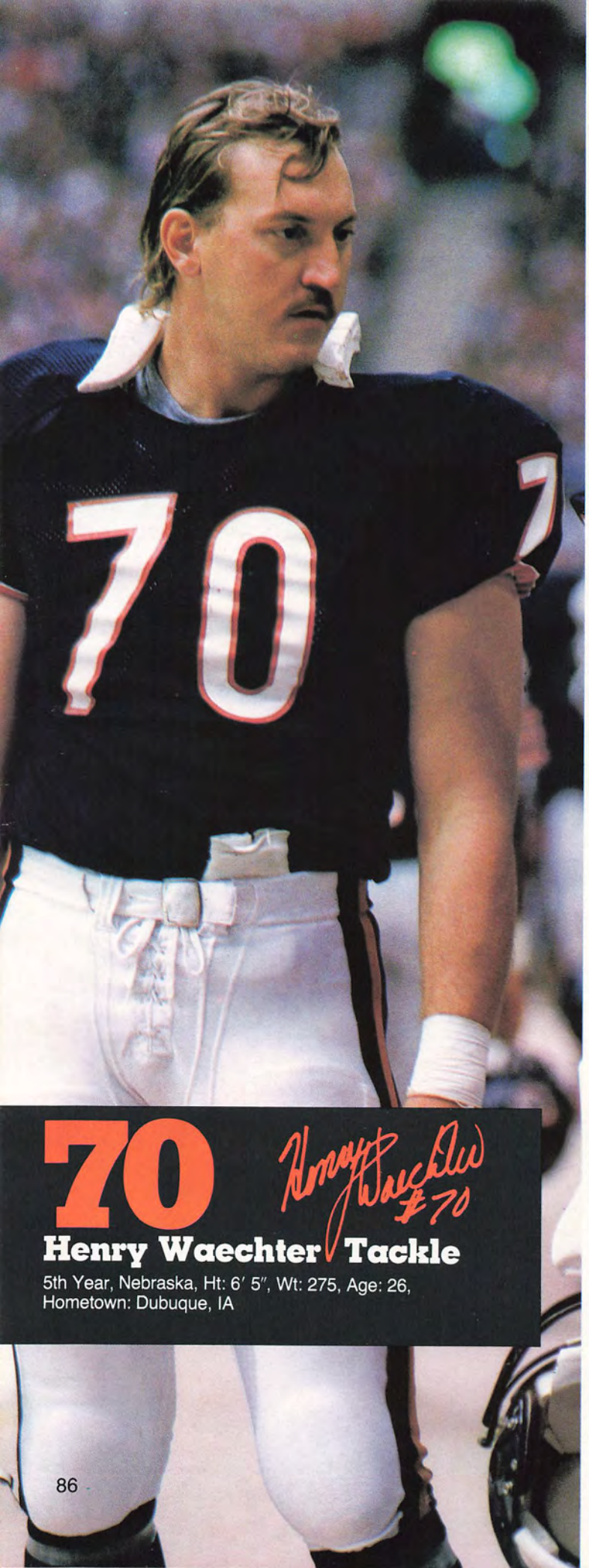
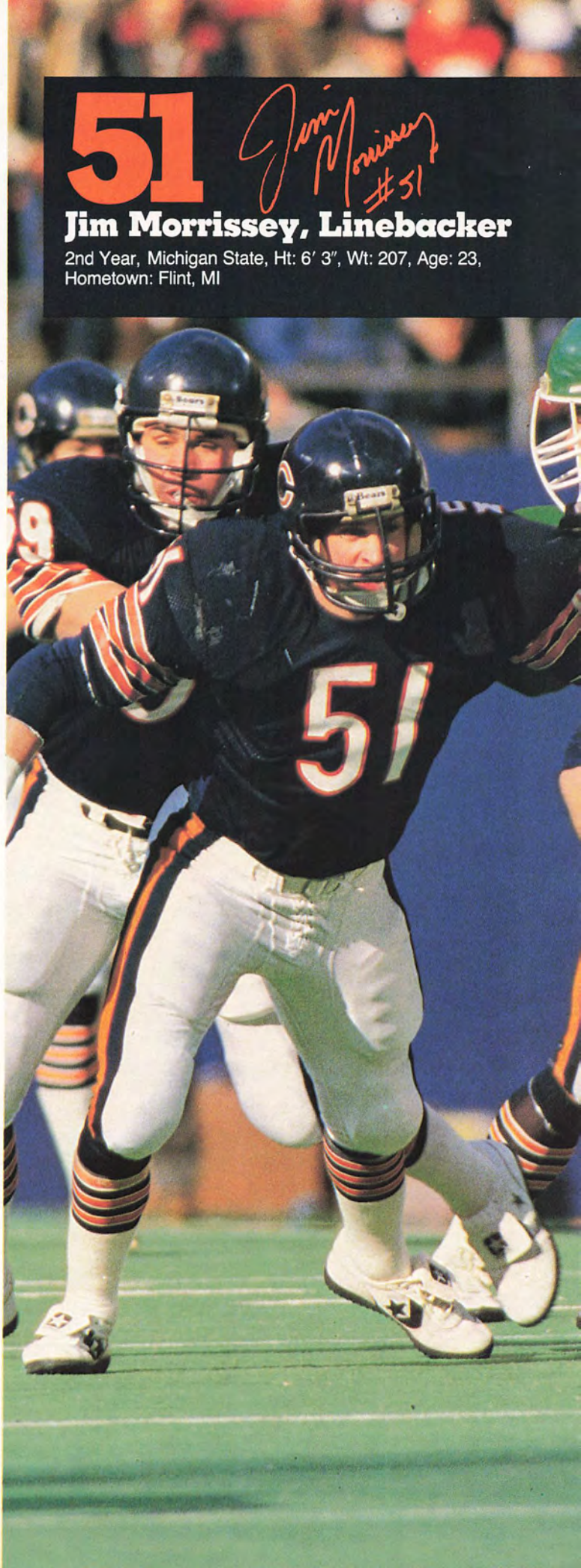


70

Henry Waechter Tackle

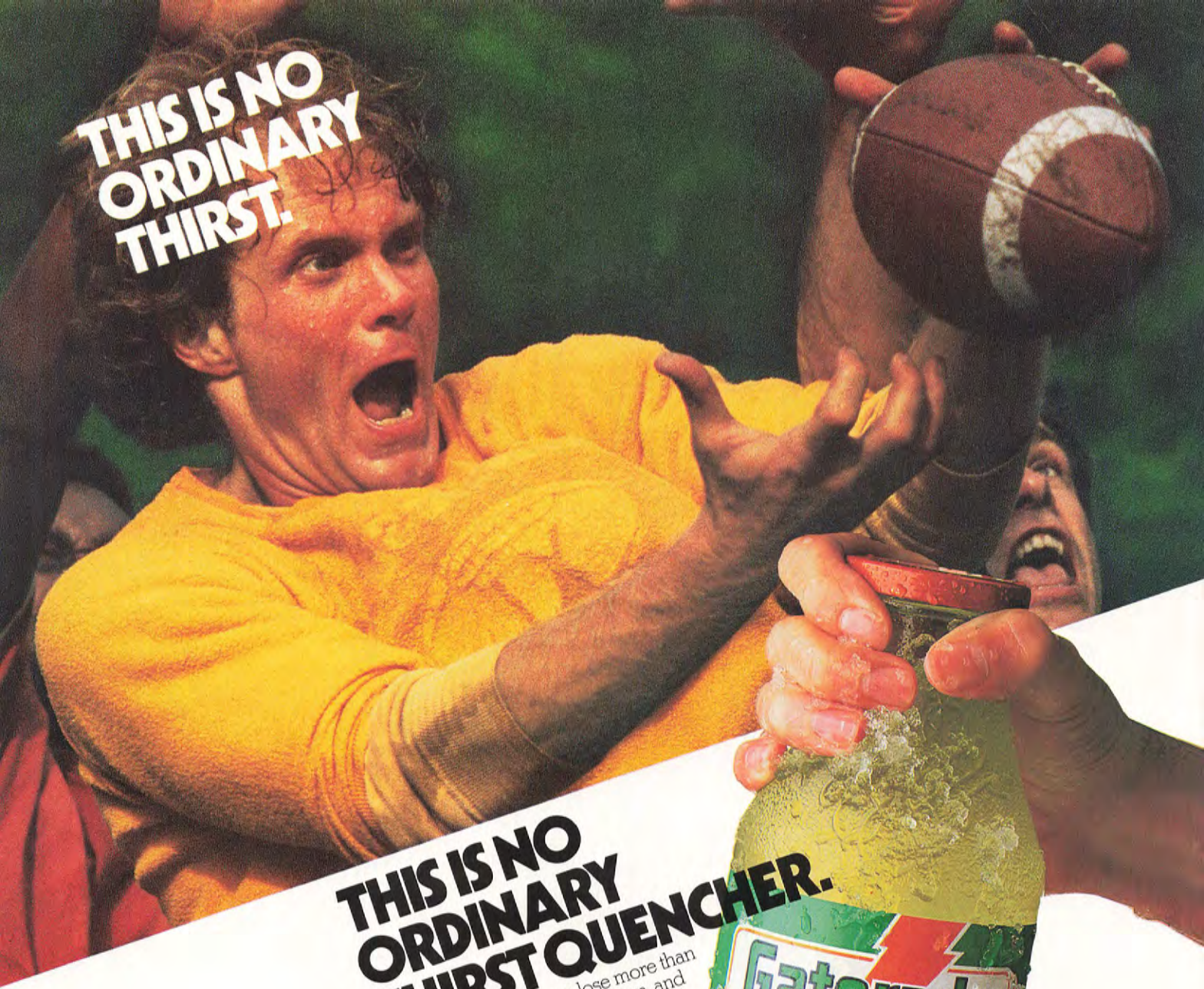
5th Year, Nebraska, Ht: 6′ 5″, Wt: 275, Age: 26,
Hometown: Dubuque, IA



51

Jim Morrissey, Linebacker

2nd Year, Michigan State, Ht: 6′ 3″, Wt: 207, Age: 23,
Hometown: Flint, MI



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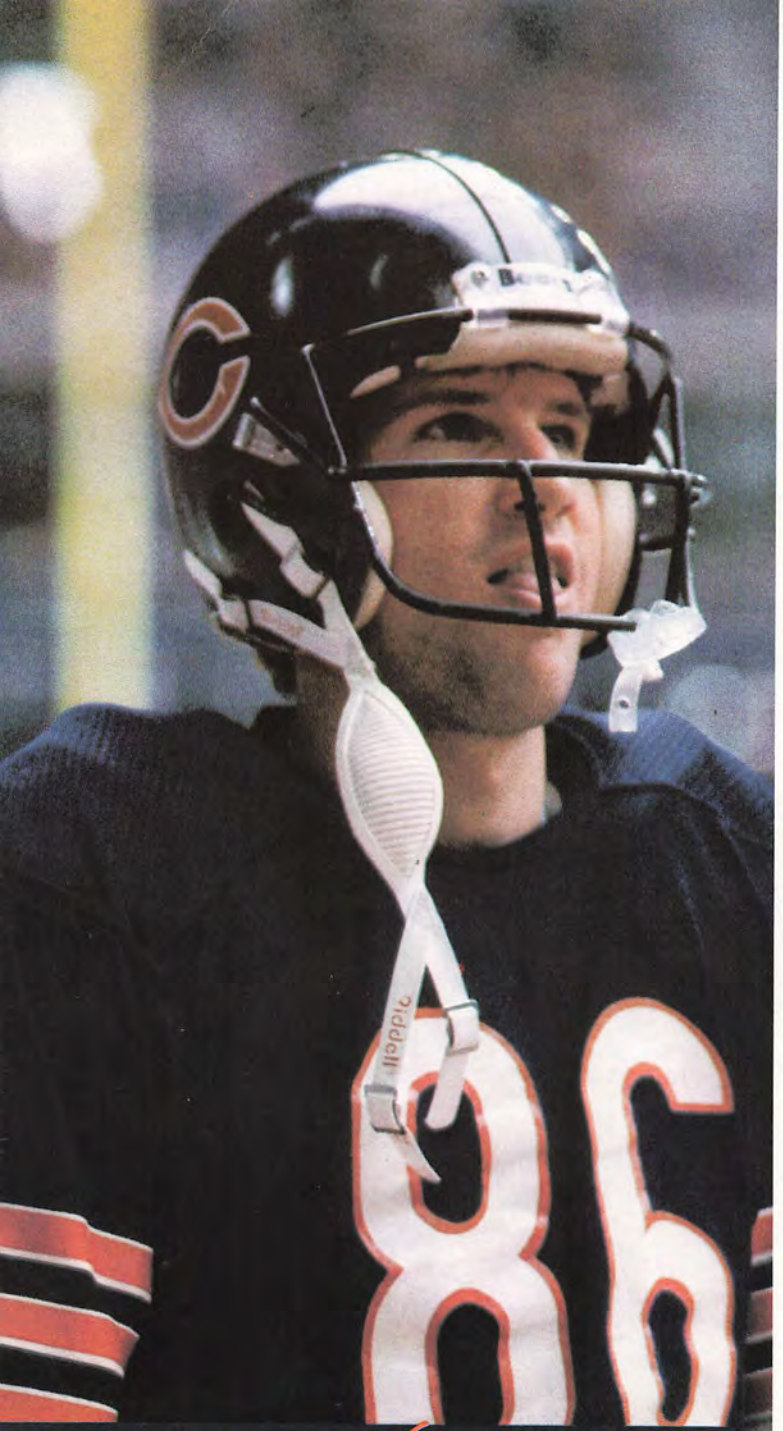
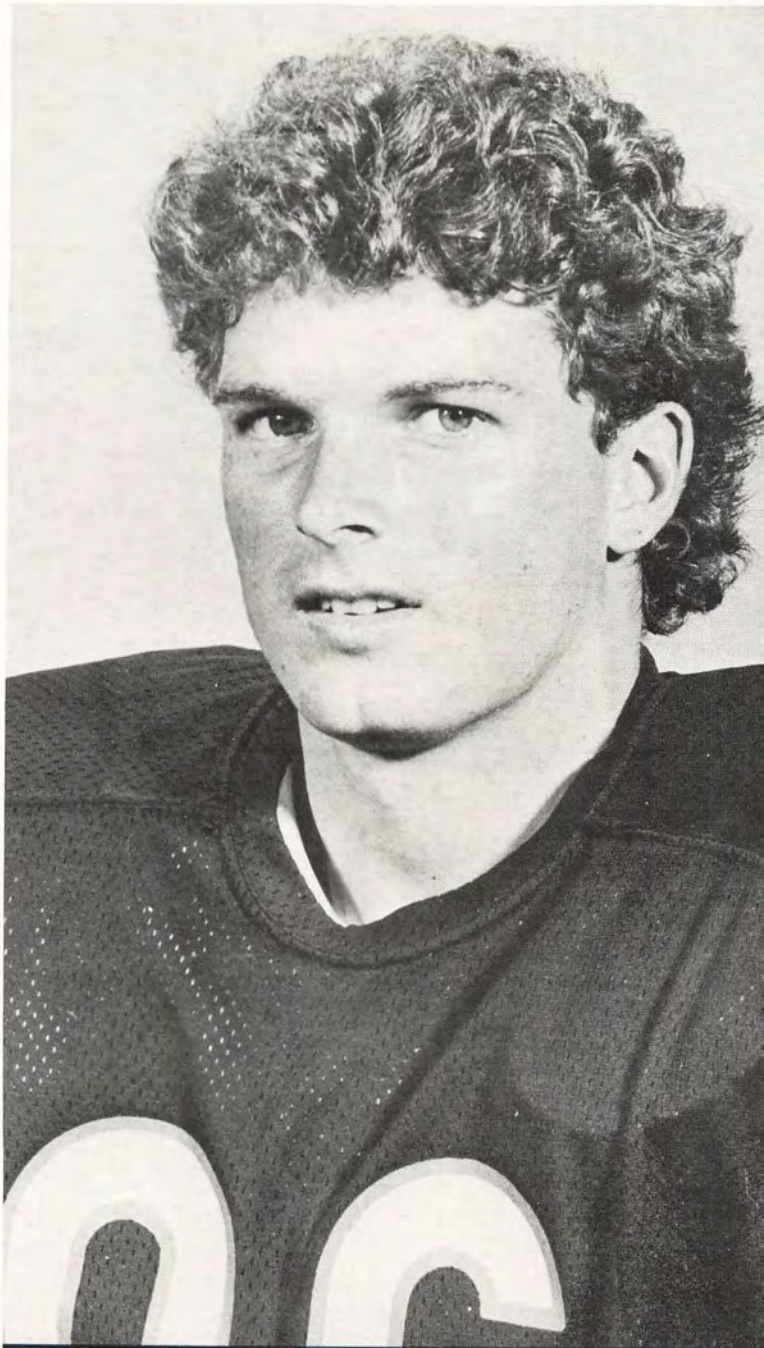


86

Brad Anderson, Wide Receiver

3rd Year, Arizona, Ht: 6′ 2″, Wt: 198, Age: 24,
Hometown: Glendale, AZ



96

Keith Ortego, Wide Receiver

2nd Year, McNeese State, Ht: 6′ 0″, Wt: 180, Age: 22,
Hometown: Eunice, LA

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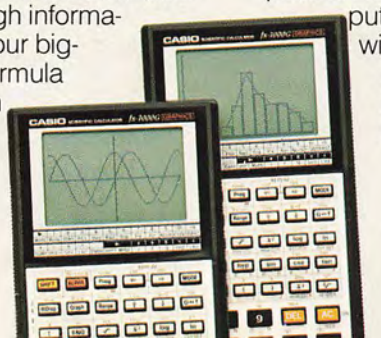

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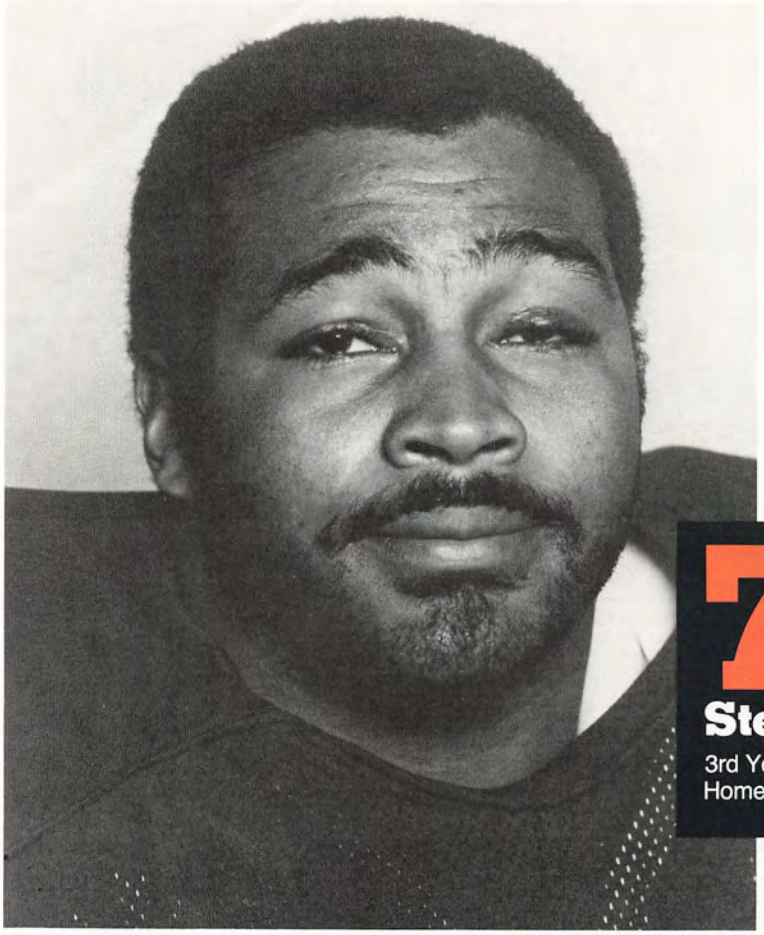

75 Stefan Humphries

Stefan Humphries, Guard

3rd Year, Michigan, Ht: 6′ 3″, Wt: 263, Age: 23,
Hometown: Broward, FL

60 #60 Tom Andrews

Tom Andrews, Tackle/Center

3rd Year, Louisville, Ht: 6′ 4″, Wt: 267, Age: 23,
Hometown: Parma, OH

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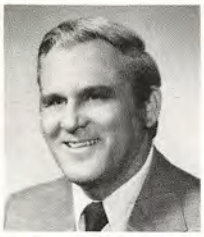

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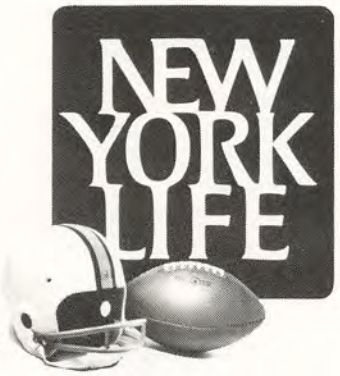

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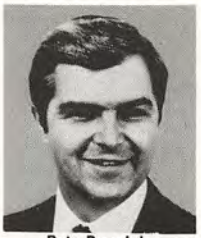

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84

Brian Baschnagel, Receiver

10th Year, Ohio State, Ht: 6′ 0″, Wt: 193, Age: 31,
Hometown: Kingston, New York

88

Pat Dunsmore, Tight End

3rd Year, Drake, Ht: 6′ 3″, Wt: 237, Age: 27,
Hometown: Duluth, MN

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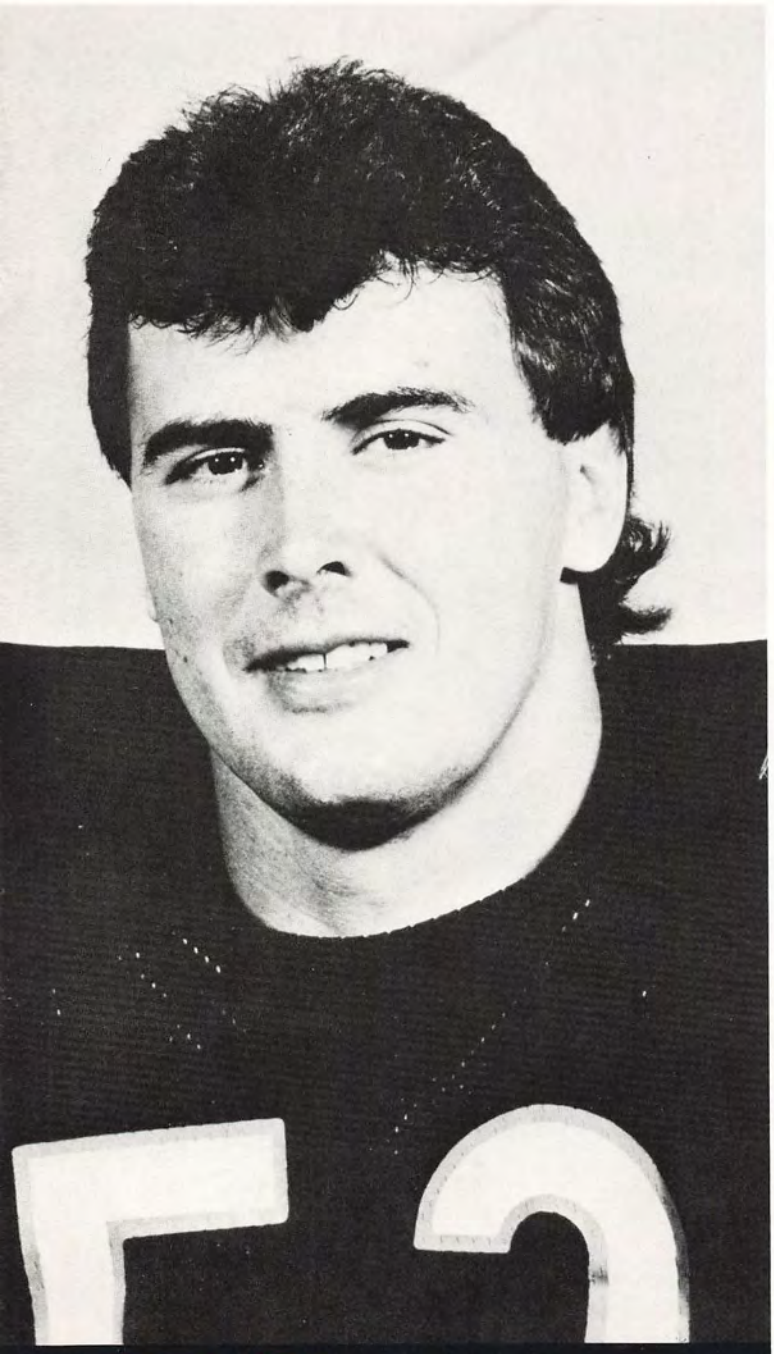
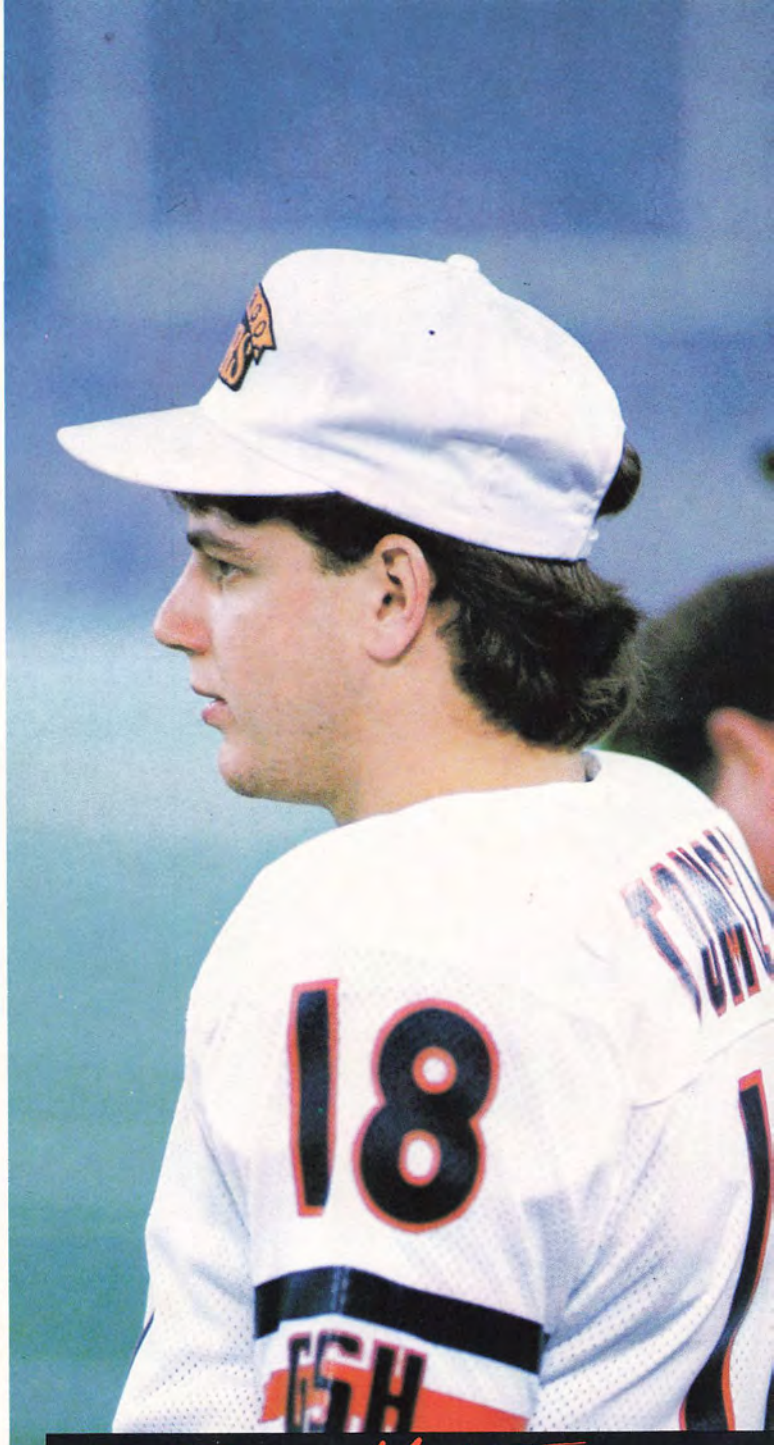


53 Danny Rains #53

Dan Rains, Linebacker

3rd Year, Cincinnati, Ht: 6′ 1″, Wt: 229, Age: 28,
Hometown: Rochester, PA



18 Mike Tomczak #18

Mike Tomczak, Quarterback

2nd Year, Ohio State, Ht: 6′ 1″, Wt: 195, Age: 23,
Hometown: Calumet City, Illinois

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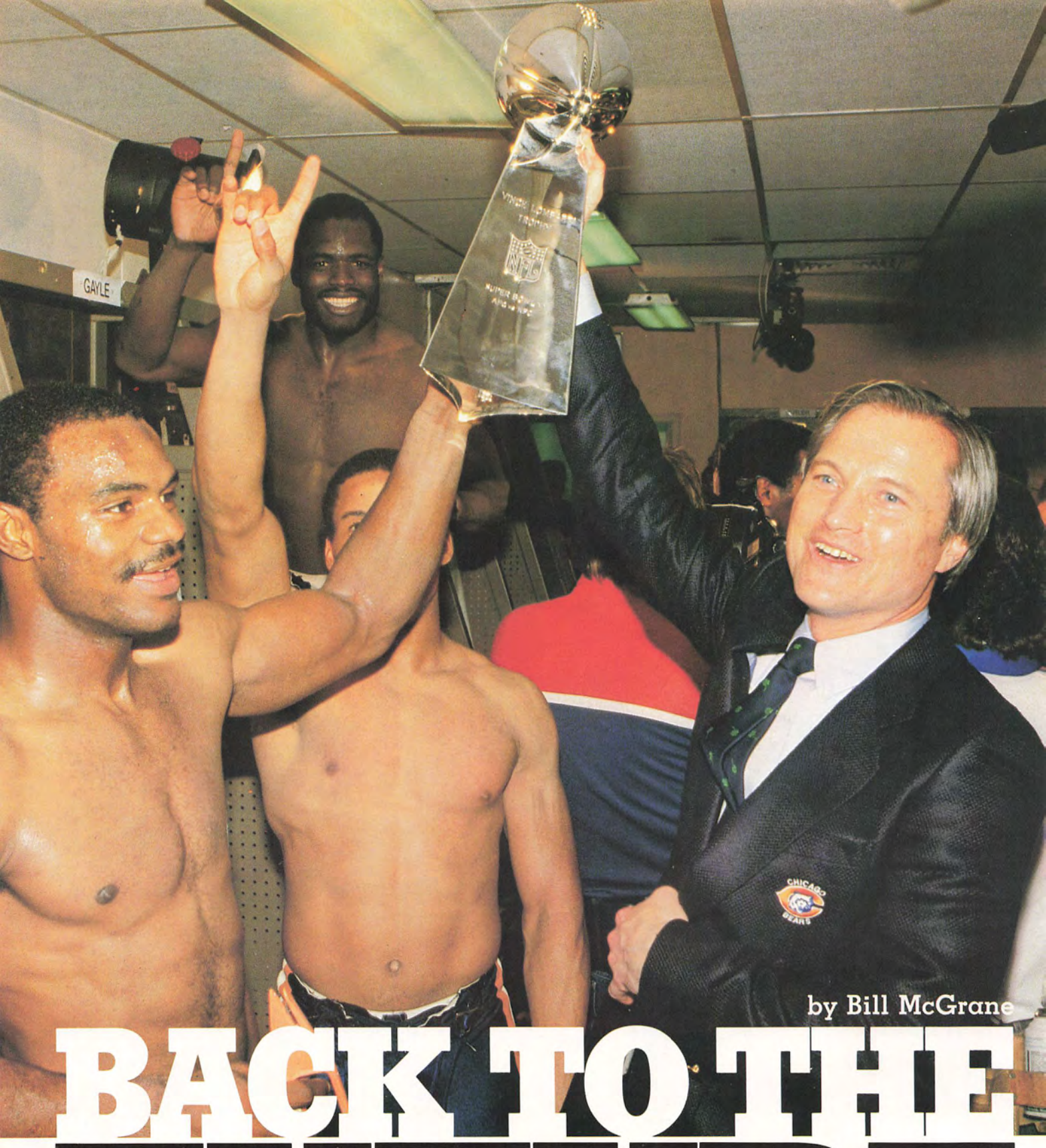


by Bill McGrane

BACK TO THE FUTURE

The newest Super Bowl ring on display at the Pro Football Hall of Fame in Canton, Ohio, has a couple of pro football's oldest names on it.

One is the Chicago Bears . . .

The other is Halas.

Sports teams, like other businesses, have their distinctive signatures, and the signature of the Chicago Bears, bold and fresh despite its sixty-odd years, retains much of its author, George Stanley Halas.

He pioneered professional football from its birthright in 1920 through the early, hardscrabble years.

Halas . . .

As a player, he returned a fumble 98 yards to score and establish a NFL record . . . the fellow who fumbled was Jim Thorpe of the Oorang Indians.

He coached the Bears for forty years and his teams won 326 games and six World Championships. He did just about everything anybody might imagine, and then he did something that was, almost unthinkable for this man of such energy and mission . . .

He died.

Halas, the combative patriarch, was gone. Because his son, Mugs, had preceded him in death, pro football's most recognizable name was abruptly stricken from the roll.

But not really . . .

Set aside all the honors accorded him in life, and the eulogies occasioned by his passing, George Halas was an uncomplicated man who left a simple legacy:

He considered work a joy, he detested losing, and he saw competition at the heart of life.

With her father's death, control of the Bears fell to Virginia Halas McCaskey.

Ask a pro football devotee to describe that club and its history, and two words will roll out presently . . .

Rough and tumble.

The Chicago Bears have a blue-collar, sleeves-rolled-up, bare-knuckle image, and the names Bear fans are most proud of belong to combative types like Bulldog Turner and Ed Sprinkle, Bill George and Dick Butkus.

To implement the trust placed upon her by her father's death . . . and to keep the growl in the Bears . . . Virginia turned for leadership to a young man whose credentials included a stint in the Peace Corps in Ethiopia and service on the faculty of the Harvard Business School.

Michael McCaskey, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Chicago Bears, wears blue collars, but they frame tasteful neckties and complement proper business suits.

He seems, at first glance, a sharp departure from the roistering Bear image kindled over the decades by his grandfather. His speech is more likely to be polished, than salty. He is fond of shocking football traditionalists by cocking an eyebrow at convention, instead applying to sport's day-to-day problems the same critical examination he has used in classrooms and corporate boardrooms.

Then again, his grandfather, for decades, was an innovator among his peers. The style is somewhat different, but the aim is the same. Toughness, too, with at least a trace of stubbornness seems to flow in the family blood — a quality useful amongst the rough knocks of professional football.

Michael McCaskey took over Bear leadership on November 11, 1983. What has he done as a leader, while the Bears climbed to the top of the NFL hill? He has simultaneously delegated and been a clear source of authority. A drift caused when cronies presumed to speak for the dieing patriarch Halas was over. McCaskey partitioned the club into three major spheres of influence — football, administration, and player personnel acquisition. Mike Ditka, Jerry Vainisi and Bill Tobin are responsible in those areas, reporting to McCaskey. A new emphasis on budgets, adding in-house computers and renewing attention to fans were all part of the drive to return the Bears to a championship level. And McCaskey hammered at the need to return to the Bear ways of old . . . by playing tough, aggressive, and smart football.

The Bears had talented players before he came on board, and the newly enlarged player personnel department continued to have a high batting average. Pushing that talent to fulfill its promise, took the drive of a fine group of coaches headed by Mike Ditka. McCaskey's leadership approach . . . more introspective and analytical . . . differs from that of the fiery Ditka, but both men are highly motivated. Indeed, the success and diversity of the Bears in the 1980's is fueled by leaders that can argue in a climate of shared goals and interests, for the betterment of the Bears.

McCaskey has altered things with an eye to the football future and a keen appreciation of the past . . . after all, he grew up at the knee of a legend.

And the legacy that he carries on . . . work is a joy, losing is to be detested, and competition is the stuff of life . . . animates today's Bears. ■

Mike Ditka, Head Coach by Ken Valdiserri

There were too many years the Chicago Bears were polite losers, always offering a helping hand to the people who were making their lives miserable. Under Head Coach Mike Ditka, the hand has become a fist. In 1985, the fist packed a powerful wallop to the tune of an 18-1 record including a resounding 46-10 win over the New England Patriots in Super Bowl XX. The Bears' accomplishments earned Ditka *The Sporting News,* Associated Press and Pro Football Writers Coach of the Year honors.

In just four years under Ditka's leadership, the Bears have transcended from a medicore bunch of individuals to one of the most respected teams in the National Football League. His team's have shown gradual progression in each of the four years with him at the helm. In his initial season, the Bears were 3-6 in a strike-shortened year (1982) followed by an 8-8 team in 1983; then a 10-6 mark in 1984 that included a playoff win over the Washington Redskins and an appearance in the NFC Title Game. In 1985, while fielding the youngest team in the NFC (25.1 avg.), the Bears were the dominant team in the league during a season in which only the Miami Dolphins were able to blemish an otherwise perfect record. Thus, under Dikta, they became only the second team in NFL history to win 18 games in a year matching the San Francisco 49ers World Championship record in 1984.

Perhaps it is not so coincidental that Ditka was the starting tight end on the Bears last championship squad in 1963. So intense was the competitive fire within Ditka as a player that people around him knew that he would settle for nothing less than total effort and success. This competitive spirit developed long before Mike finished a successful 12-year career in the NFL after being selected as the Bears No. 1 draft choice in 1961 and even before receiving all-American honors at Pittsburgh where he was a solid two-way performer, defensively at end and middle linebacker, offensively as a receiver and blocker. A childhood incident recalled by Mike's brother Ashton may better illustrate the roots of Ditka's competitive flame. When the Ditka's were teammates on a Pony League Baseball team back in Alliquippa, Pennsylvania, Ashton, a center fielder, dropped a fly ball that would have ended the game. Instead, two runs scored and the Celtics lost, 3-2. Ditka threw down his glove and went after his brother.

"Ashton saw him coming and tried to get over the fence," said Don Yannessa, Ditka's boyhood friend and the football coach at Aliquippa High School. "Mike caught him and proceeded to beat the stuffing out of him. His father had to run onto the field to save Ashton. Mike wasn't through. "Chased him all the way home," Ditka recalls. "I liked to win, but he was win at all costs," says Ashton.

Mike Ditka has not changed. He is still tough, still very demanding and one of the main reasons the Bears waltzed to an 18-1 mark and World Championship in 1985. Ditka came to the Bears four years ago from the Dallas Cowboys, where he was an assistant under Tom Landry for nine seasons.

Chicago is Ditka's kind of town, the closest thing to Aliquippa the Midwest has to offer. "Where I was raised, who I was raised with, you don't take things for granted," Ditka says. "You get what you work for. There was good work ethic that was instilled in me and my family through my whole life, which I appreciated. I found it's not so much what you have in life, it's what you do with what you have. I think that's what I enjoyed about being raised in Aliquippa. I had the best teachers in high school, grade school, basketball, football, baseball, and all the guys who had me through Little League and Pony League. I really had a lot of people support me. I had a tremendous temper. I hated to lose. I had a lot of people who had a lot of patience with me, who gave me a lot of guidance and understanding at tough times in my life."

The Bears are direct descendents of Ditka's ire and of the Father of Pro Football himself, George Halas, who, the year before he died in 1983 handpicked Ditka to become the Bears' 10th head coach. Ditka serves the kind of football Papa Bear used to make.

"We defy you to stop us," Ditka says. "Playing with a chip on your shoulder, that's it. You look at the great football teams of the past — the old Bears, the Giants, the Packers, the Steelers — my goodness, if those teams didn't have a chip on their shoulders, I don't know who did. If people think old-fashioned, hard-nosed football is bad, then I think they ought to start watching tennis."

Under Ditka, the Bears have strived to be what the football world wistfully likes to call "throwbacks." They like mud. They don't mind blood. "The plays are designed to be physical," says running back Matt Suhey. "No finesse involved. The idea is, if you're going to beat me, you have to whip me physically. Walter Payton plays that way."

"We've got a quarterback (McMahon) who plays like a defensive tackle," Ditka says, "and I think people identify with that. We have a defensive tackle, Dan Hampton, who has had five knee operations. You got to have people who want to play hard." Throwbacks.

"I was just a guy who played the game hard," says Ditka. "Nothing hard, nothing pretty about it, nothing glamorous."

That's the prototype Ditka was in his hey-day as an all-pro tight end with the Bears in the early 1960's and it is his hard-nosed style of coaching that has brought the NFL's charter franchise back to the ranks of pro football respect. "When I came here," reflects all-pro tackle Jim Covert, "Mike would yell and scream during the game, during practice . . . anytime . . . films . . . anytime. Anytime Ditka yelled, if you looked at yourself, you were wrong and he was right. But the first time you did something right, he was one of the first people to pat you on the back. A lot of coaches remember the first thing, the yelling and screaming, and forget about the second. You're playing a kid's game and I don't care if you're 35 years old, you need that sometimes."

Ditka's beginnings with the Bears were somewhat humbling after he took the job back in 1982. "Iron Mike" tried to control his temper with the Bears, but it wasn't working. Following an initial season which resulted in a 3-6 record, Ditka went into a tirade after a "pitiful" 10-0, loss to the New Orleans Saints. "The players must have thought I was nuts", he reflects. "They thought they had a wild man on their hands."

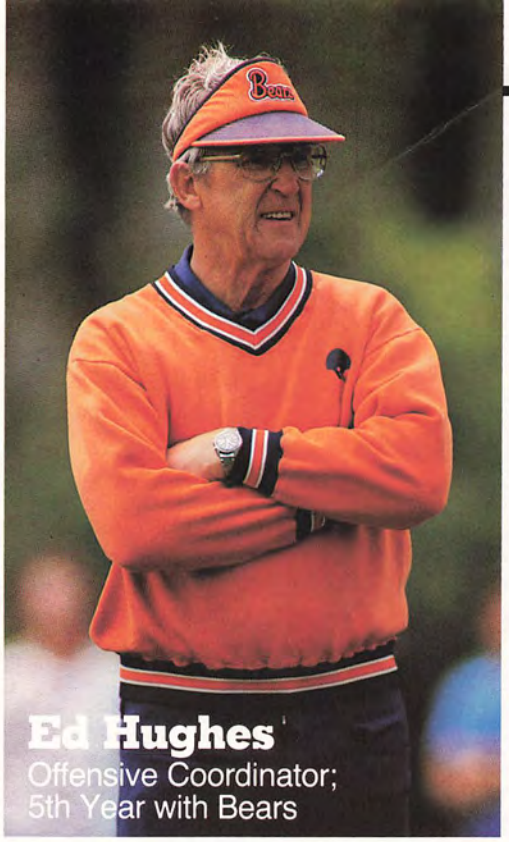
The following season, Ditka got so angry after an overtime loss in Baltimore, he broke his hand punching an equipment locker. That was the season Ditka started wearing a tie on the sideline. The purpose was to remind him to stay in control. "I always wanted to wear a tie," Ditka says. "I thought it would calm me down. But sometimes you tie it so tight, it causes you to choke." Choke is one word that cannot be used to describe the team's achievements and direction in the last three years Entering the 1986 campaign, the Bears have won 30 of their last 38 regular season games and have captured 19 of their last 21 home games including back-to-back shutout wins over the New York Giants and Los Angeles Rams in the playoffs last January. The Chicagoans recorded a perfect 10-0 mark at Soldier Field in 1985-86 to become their first Bear team to go undefeated at home since 1963, the year of their last championship and, coincidentally, a team in which Ditka was the starting tight end.

Somewhere up there, Papa Bear George Halas is smiling. "He's a fiery coach that has his team ready to play," said ex-Giant linebacker Sam Huff, a one-time adversary of Ditka. "He's put intensity back in the game. Ditka coaches like Lombardi coached, like Halas coached. He doesn't take any gruff from the players. He's in charge of that football team. If they don't do it Mike's way they're not there."

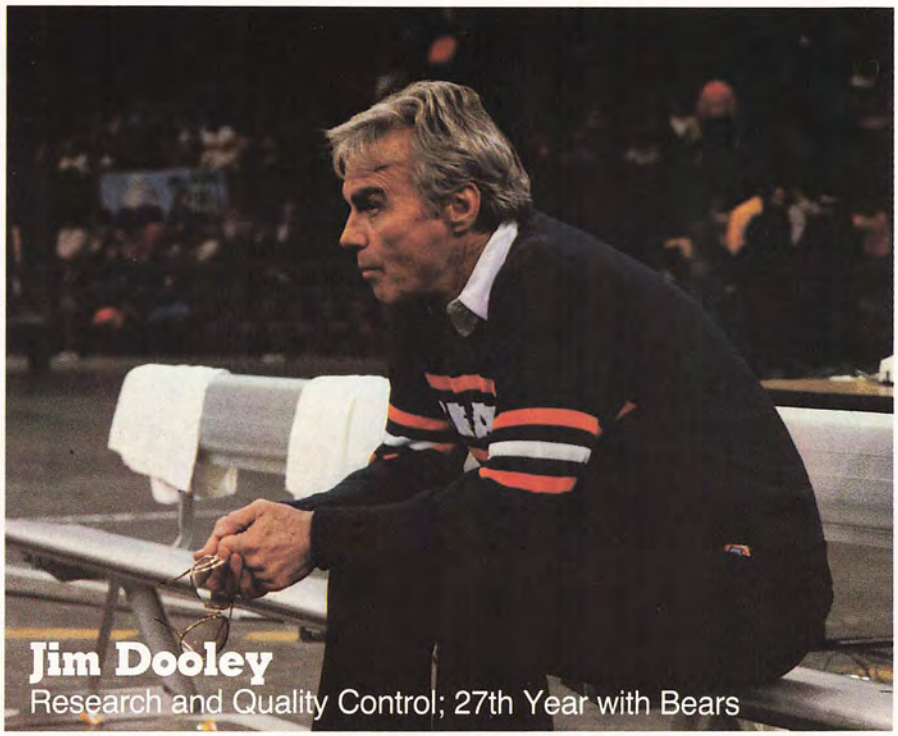
"I was just a guy who played the game hard," says Ditka. "Nothing hard, nothing pretty about it, nothing glamorous." Which is what you'd expect of a tough, proud no nonsense Ukranian from the steel mill country of Western Pa. His definition of Bear football: "Bear football is tough, no-nonsense aggressive football, and when you go out you make your opponent pay the price. It doesn't have to be the prettiest." Yet the image of a 6-3 230-pound madman wobbling out of control no longer fits. Ditka spends laborious hours during the off-season on behalf of charitable organizations. He is actively involved in an organization of underprivileged children called Misericorda, as well as the Little City Foundation, the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and Sports Teams Organized for the Prevention of Drug Abuse.

He is a person who has grown into the job some thought he could never hold because of the fire that raged within him. He has matured, even mellowed. "I think so," says Steve McMichael. "At first he was trying to prove he could be a head coach and win. Well, he proved that."

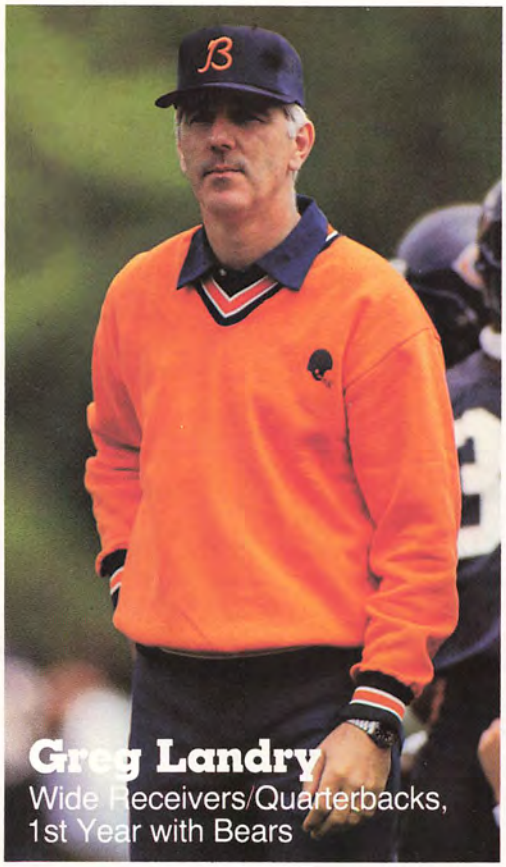
But somewhere in there, as head coach, Ditka knows it is no time to let the guard down. He is smart enough to know that a new season offers different challenges and rewards. He's not about to let the Bears extend that generous hand again, he'd rather have his Bears' entering the field of play with clenched fists. ■



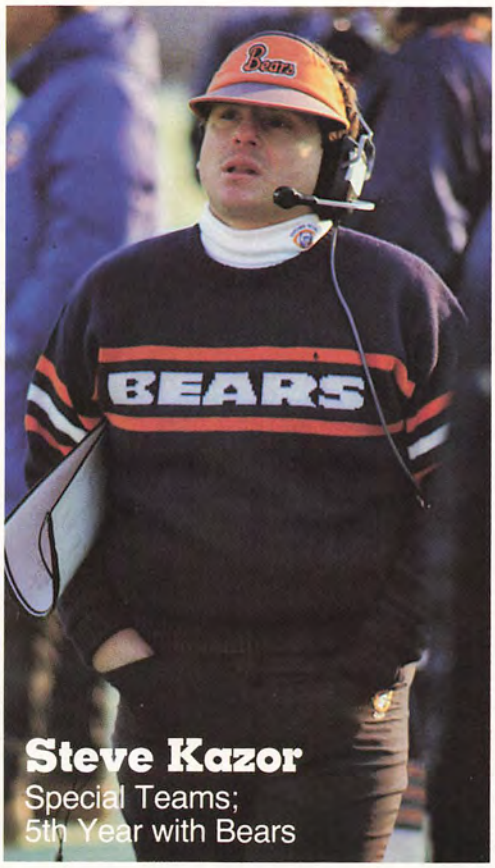
Ed Hughes
Offensive Coordinator;
5th Year with Bears



Jim Dooley
Research and Quality Control; 27th Year with Bears



Greg Landry
Wide Receivers/Quarterbacks,
1st Year with Bears



Steve Kazor
Special Teams;
5th Year with Bears

Jim Larue
Defensive Secondary,
8th Year with Bears

ASSISTANT

Vince Tobin
Defensive Coordinator,
1st Year with Bears

Dick Stanfel
Offensive Line; 6th Year with Bears

John Levra
Defensive Line, 1st Year with Bears

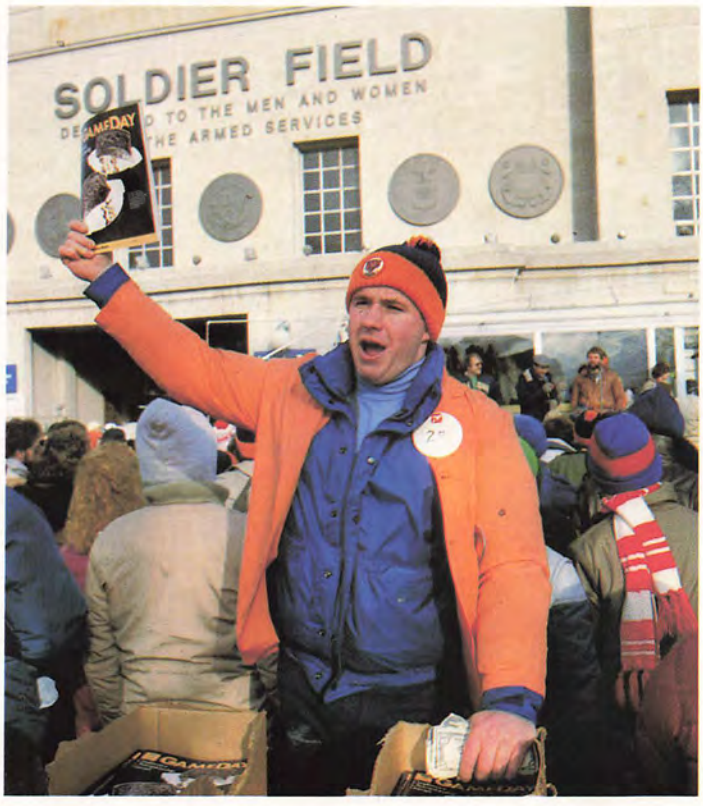
Dave McGinnis
Defensive Assistant,
1st Year with Bears

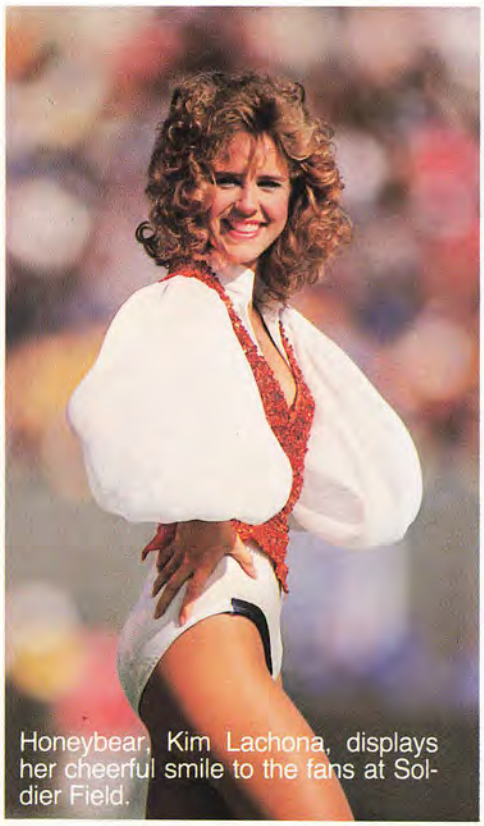
Johnny Roland
Offensive Backfield,
4th Year with Bears

T COACHES

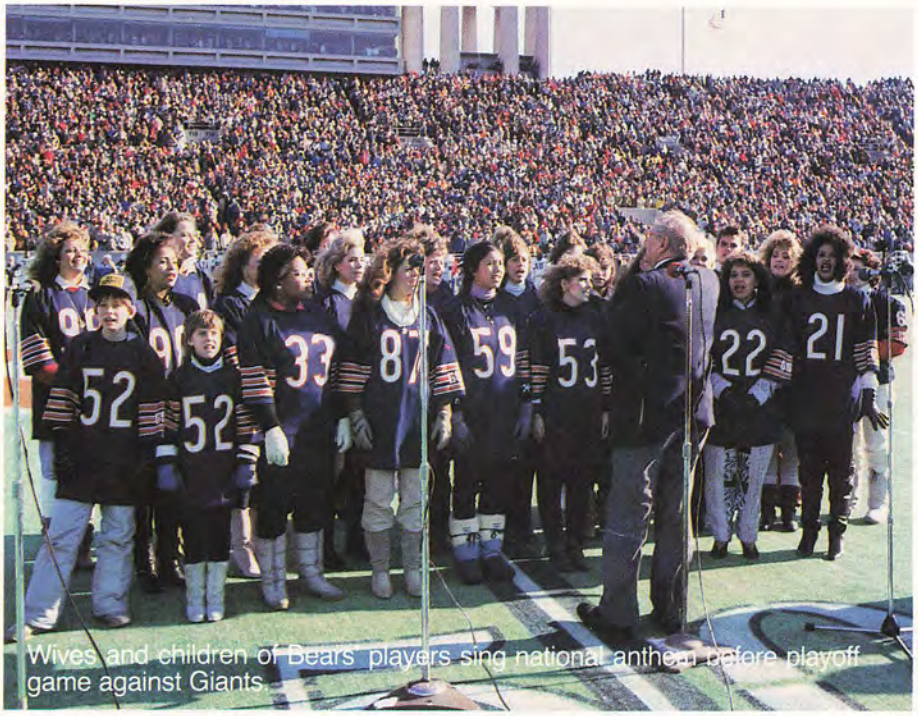
GAMEDAY AT SOLDIER FIELD

Head Coach Mike Ditka and President Michael McCaskey visit frequently on field during pre-game warmups.





Honeybear, Kim Lachona, displays her cheerful smile to the fans at Soldier Field.



Wives and children of Bears' players sing national anthem before playoff game against Giants.

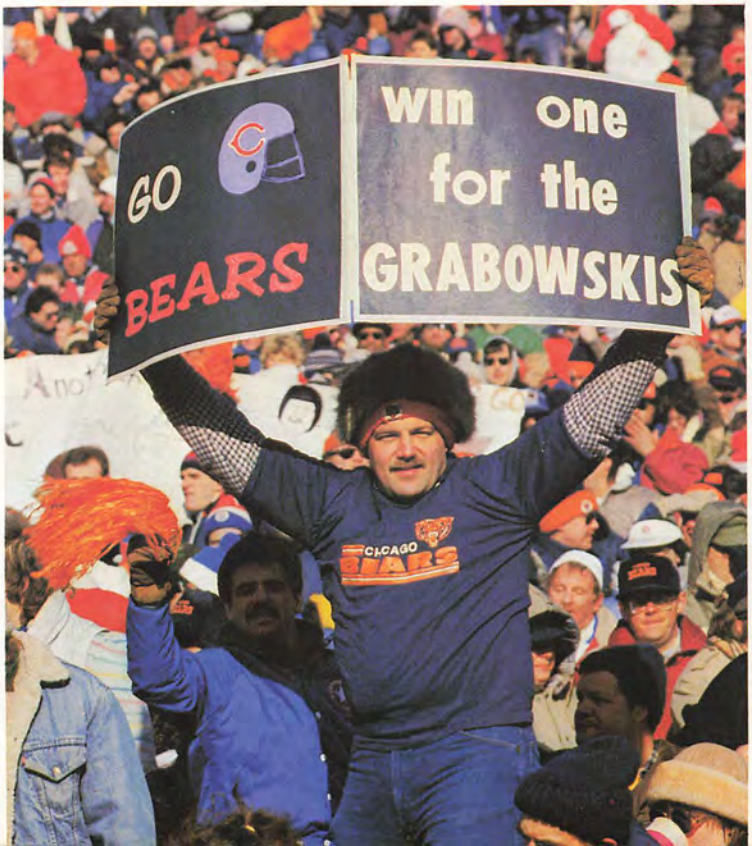
Soldier Field crews worked overtime to get stadium ready for post-season action.

CHICAGO BEARS FANS

HAMPTON
99

MONSTERS
OF THE
MIDWAY!!

BEARS
BEARS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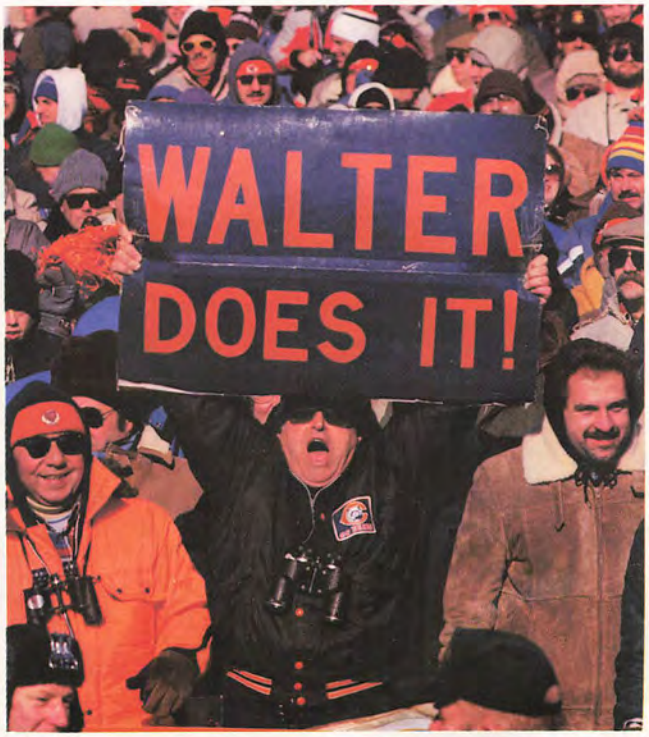
WALTER
DOES IT!

CHICAGO BEARS

'85 SEASON GAME-BY-GAME

The 1984 season was a great year for the Chicago Bears, the teams' first championship of any kind in 21 years following a NFC Central Division Title and a 23-19 win over the Washington Redskins in the Divisional Playoff Game. But, the season had an abrupt ending when the Bears were soundly defeated by the San Francisco 49ers in the NFC Title Game. That game became the measuring stick of success as the team gathered for the '85 training camp in Platteville, Wisconsin.

The 1985 season had somewhat humble beginnings. The Bears entered training camp with not less than five defensive starters holding out due to contract differences plus a number one draft pick missing and an offensive tackle unsigned. A trying summer not only for general manager, Jerry Vainisi, but, for head coach Mike Ditka, defensive coordinator Buddy Ryan and Bear fans in general. Most, but not all of the holdouts eventually checked into training camp. The start of the preseason schedule seemed to confirm rather than deny the doubts of the skeptics who felt the playoff season of '84 was only a Chicago fluke. The Bears dropped consecutive games to the Cardinals, Colts and Cowboys to open the pre season slate. But, a resounding 45-14 victory over the Buffalo Bills to close the preseason seemed to set the stage for the opener against the Tampa Bay Bucs at Soldier Field.

WEEK 1

Sept. 8 at Chicago

Bears 38, Bucs 28

Opening the season against a team they had beaten four games in a row, the Bears had to claw and scratch for survival against Tampa Bay. The Bears overcame a 14-point deficit and held Tampa Bay scoreless in the second half enroute to a 38-28 win. Only one other opponent on the Bears' schedule would

score more than the 28 first half points recorded by the Bucs. Chicago trailed 28-17 at halftime before scoring two touchdowns in the third quarter, the first of which came as the result of a Steve DeBerg pass which was deflected by Richard Dent and returned 29 yards by Leslie Frazier for a touchdown. "You look for one thing to trigger you. It shocked me when I saw it. I said, 'There it is.' That was the one pump we needed," said Mike Ditka. Overcoming a two touchdown deficit marked the first time a Bear team had accomplished the feat since Nov. 13, 1977. The Bears' offense was effective as Jim McMahon passed for 274 yards, completing 23 of 34 passes. Walter Payton surpassed the 100-yard mark for the 64th time in his career as he gained 120 yards in 17 carries; he also caught 6 passes for 37 yards. McMahon threw a 21-yard TD pass to Dennis McKinnon in the first quarter for the Bears' initial score in '85. He then scored on a 1-yard QB sneak in the 2nd quarter and a 1-yard sneak early in the 4th quarter to close out the scoring for the Bears.

WEEK 2
Sept. 15 at Chicago
Bears 20, Patriots 7

In what was to be the first of two meetings between the Bears and New England, the Bears as it turned out, had a more difficult time with the Pats in their own backyard than they did at the Superdome in New Orleans. In a hard-hitting contest that featured only three touchdowns and a field goal, the Bears were victorious 20-7. The Bears held New England to only 27 yards rushing while logging three interceptions and 6 sacks. The Pats spent only :19 seconds in Bear territory all day. Chicago scored on its' first possession when Jim McMahon's 32-yard touchdown pass to Dennis McKinnon culminated a 69-yard, 5-play march just 3:03 into the game. McMahon completed 21 passes for 232 yards before leaving the game with a stiff neck in the 4th quarter. Kevin Butler's 21-yard field goal at the end of the first half gave the Bears a 10-0 lead. The Bears posted 10 points in the third quarter on Matt Suhey's 1-yard run and a 28-yard Butler field goal. Suhey's score was set-up by a 42-yard McMahon to Willie Gault pass while Butler's 3-pointer followed a Mike Singletary interception. The Bears' all-pro middle linebacker also had three sacks, 4 tackles and two pass deflections.

WEEK 3
Sept. 19 at Minneapolis
Bears 33, Vikings 24

After talking his way into the game, quarterback Jim McMahon played his way into America's football consciousness in one of the most dramatic quarterback performances in Bears' history. McMahon threw three touchdown passes in seven tosses in the third quarter to lead the Bears to a 33-24 comeback victory over the Minnesota Vikings. With a sore back and infected leg and no practice time during the week, McMahon convinced coach Mike Ditka to let him replace Steve Fuller with 7 minutes and 22 seconds left in the third period and the Bears trailing 17-9. On his first play following a key Walter Payton block on a blitzing linebacker, McMahon heaved a 70-yard TD pass to Willie Gault to cut the deficit to 17-16. Just moments later, Wilber Marshall snagged his first career interception and the Bears had the ball at the Minnesota 25-yard line. McMahon's second play: a 25-yard TD strike to Dennis McKinnon to give the Bears a 23-17 lead. After getting the ball back on a punt, McMahon then completed two of four passes before hitting Dennis McKinnon for a 43-yard touchdown. "I must have been blessed," McMahon gasped following the game. "I can't remember the last time I threw three TD's like that." McMahon turned the nationally televised game into his own private showcase. He finished with 8 completions in 15 attempts for 236 yards. "I don't know how you write scripts for the kind of game you saw out there," said Ditka, who turned and shook his head in disbelief on the sidelines after McMahon's 3rd TD pass. Willie Gault finished with 6 catches for 146 yards, while McKinnon had 4 receptions for 133 yards. Both were personal career bests for the tandem of receivers. The victory put the undefeated Bears in sole possession of 1st place in the NFC Central Division.

WEEK 4
Sept. 29 at Chicago
Bears 45, Redskins 10

For the third time in four weeks the Bears had to come from behind for victory. A 99-yard kickoff return for a touchdown by Willie Gault ignited a 31-point second quarter that turned a 10-0 deficit into a 31-10 halftime lead. The Bears scored three touchdowns in 5:14 — Gault's return, and Jim McMahon scoring passes of 14 and 10 yards to Dennis McKinnon and Emery Moorehead. McMahon later caught a 13-yard TD pass from Walter Payton before Kevin Butler closed the 31-point stanza with a 28-yard field goal at the end of the half. The Bears added a touchdown in both the third and fourth quarters closing out their 45 point total, the most since a 61-7 rout over Green Bay December 7, 1980. The fact that Walter Payton gained only 6 yards on 7 carries and the Bears were victorious was an early season indicator that maybe times had changed. Football's all-time leading rusher was finally a member of a team capable of carrying him on its shoulders in return for past favors. "The thing that really matters to me is 4-0," said Payton. "It's a team, not Walter Payton."

WEEK 5
Oct. 6 at Tampa
Bears 27, Bucs 19

The come-from-behind element was getting familiar, but not comfortable for the 5-0 Bears who defeated the Tampa Bay Bucs for the 6th straight time 27-19. Again, the Bears were led by Jim McMahon, who this time also led them into the hole with his worst half of the year. The offense sputtered early, allowing Tampa to post a 12-3 halftime lead, before rallying in the second half. Chicago compiled 312 of their 433 yards in the 2nd half as McMahon completed 14 of 17 passes for 227 yards including a 21-yard strike to Dennis McKinnon which cut the Bucs' lead to 12-10 eleven minutes into the third quarter. Five plays later, Steve McMichael recovered a Steve DeBerg fumble at Tampa's 21-yard line which set up Kevin Butler's 30-yard field goal giving the Bears a 13-12 lead they never lost. Strong safety Dave Duerson was instrumental in both scores — intercepting a DeBerg pass which set up McKinnon's TD and forcing the fumble which McMichael recovered. The Bears hammered out 70 and 83 yard drives in the fourth quarter, both culminated by Walter Payton TD runs of 4 and 9 yards, respectively. Payton earned a game ball after gaining 63 yards in 16 carries and scoring twice, the first of which was his 100th career TD, qualifying him to join five others who have scored 100 NFL TD's. McMahon's 22 completions were caught by seven different receivers, including tight end Emery Moorehead, who had the best day of his 9-year career, catching 8 passes for 114 yards.

WEEK 6
Oct. 13 at San Francisco
Bears 26, 49ers 10

Not since 1942 had a Bears' team been 6-0. But, the Bears were after avenging a 23-0 loss in the NFC Title Game against the San Francisco 49ers by beating the Niners 26-10 at Candlestick Park. The Bears hailed the defending champs as the best and beat them like the rest to stake their claim to the top of the NFL. "It's only for a week, but we're pretty good right now," said Mike Ditka. Jim McMahon passed to a quick 16-0 lead and the defense squeezed the 49ers dry, holding them to 45 yards and only 3 first downs in the second half. The Bears scored on their first four possessions of the game. The 49ers had closed to 16-10 by halftime and were looking to make a move in the third quarter when the Bears ended it with a classic touchdown drive in the final quarter that was vintage Payton. "Walter had fire in his eyes in the huddle," said flanker Ken Margerum. "Everybody knows we can count on Walter," said McMahon. "He's still a big part of this offense." The offense produced 10 second half points including Payton's 17-yard TD run and the last of four Kevin Butler field goals. The Bears' dominating defense sacked 49er QB Joe Montana seven times. End Richard Dent and linebacker Wilber Marshall had two sacks each. McMichael, Dave Duerson, and linebacker Otis Wilson had the others. "When we play our defense the way Buddy Ryan designs it, we can control teams," said Duerson. McMahon needed only six plays to put the Bears up 7-0 and he moved the offense without starters McKinnon and Moorehead. The Bears dominated virtually every statistical category including a 22-11 margin in first downs, 372-183 difference in net yards and 36:33 to 23:23 in time of possession. "You have to use the World Champions as a barometer," said Ditka. We took a giant step when we beat the Raiders last year when they were the champs. Hopefully we'll take a giant step by beating the 49ers."

WEEK 7
Oct. 21 at Chicago
Bears 23, Packers 7

In front of another national television audience, the Bears thrilled the nation with their Perry formation. Rookie defensive tackle William Perry turned the Green Bay Packers goal line into a launching pad for new football concepts, scoring the winning touchdown in a 23-7 Bear win that elevated their record to 7-0. Mike Ditka lined up the 325-pound defensive tackle as a fullback on three different goal line situations. On two occasions, he blocked a huge path for two Walter Payton TD's and broke a 7-7 tie with his 1-yard plunge in the 2nd quarter. "I said I wanted to help the team any way I could," said the affable Perry. Perhaps the Bears four first half fumbles kept the Monday night affair respectable, although four interceptions off Packer QB's Lynn Dickey and Randy Wright evened the turnover ratio and set up the win. The Bears' defense knocked out both Dickey and Wright while controlling the line of scrimmage. "The defense was tremendous and a key to the football game," said Ditka. The Bear interceptions completely erased any ideas the Packers had of being respectable. The Packer running game also was shut down to a 3.7 yard average. Walter Payton gained 112 yards in 25 carries, his 66th career 100-yard game. On both of Payton's TD runs, Perry knocked Packer linebacker George Cumby into

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football trivia. "I only have one obligation and that's to block the linebacker," said Perry. "Whoever else got in the way I took him out, too."

WEEK 8
Oct. 27 at Chicago
Bears 27, Vikings 9

After the Bears had thrashed his Vikings 27-9 at Soldier Field Oct. 27, Minnesota coach Bud Grant said, "It's not the plays. It's the players who make the plays." It was Wilber Marshall who made the play for the Bears. With the Vikings possessing the ball at the Bears one-yard line in the third quarter, the 2nd year linebacker picked off a Tommy Kramer pass for Derrin Nelson that thwarted the Vikes from getting within one touchdown. The Bear linebackers had a big day as Otis Wilson recorded his first NFL touchdown with a 23-yard interception return to put the Bears ahead 20-7 in the 3rd quarter. The Bears rolled up 413 yards as Walter Payton recorded his third consecutive 100-yard game to pace a 202-yard rushing attack — the team's best in 1985. Payton ran for 118 yards and also led the team with 5 catches for 37 yards including a 20-yard snag with 9:36 left in the game to seal the Bears 8th win without a loss. Dennis McKinnon earlier had caught a 33-yard touchdown from Jim McMahon on Chicago's opening possession and Kevin Butler booted a pair of field goals to lead the Bears to a 13-7 lead at halftime. The Bears defense held the Vikings to just 30 yards rushing and held a commanding lead in first downs (24-16) and time of possession (34:42-25:18).

WEEK 9
Nov. 3 at Green Bay
Bears 16, Packers 10

For the sixth time in nine weeks the Bears came from behind to win, defeating the Green Bay Packers 16-10. Perry, the Bears' 308 pound defensive tackle/fullback put Chicago on the scoreboard with a 4-yard touchdown catch from Jim McMahon. The score came with just :25 left in the half to culminate a 12-play 65-yard drive that gave the Bears a 7-3 halftime lead. The Packers opened up the scoring on a 40-yard field by Al Del Greco which was set up by a Walter Payton fumble. The fumble was Payton's only miscue on a day when he would reach the 14,000 yard rushing plateau and enjoy the third best rushing day of his brilliant 11-year career. Green Bay regained the lead in the third quarter when Jim Zorn connected with Jessie Clark on a 55-yard scoring pass. Carrying a 10-7 lead into the 4th quarter, the Packers then made a costly mistake as Phillip Epps fielded a punt at Green Bay's four yard line. Three plays later, Steve McMichael buried Steve Zorn in the end zone to cut the Packer lead to 10-9. Payton's 27-yard touchdown late in the game was the margin of difference in the Bears' 9th straight win.

The Bears relied on the man who has led the offense for the past decade — Walter Payton, who rushed for a season-high 192 yards on 28 carries and accounted for 206 of the team's 253 net yards. His performance was made for news reels in an old-fashioned bang-em-up game perfect for natural grass and white-suited stretcher bearers. "It was nasty," said middle linebacker Mike Singletary. "The way football should be played," Payton said, speaking of the plays that erupted between fights and late hits. There were six personal fouls in the first half, four by the Packers. One was a particularly late hit by Packer defensive back Ken Stills on Bears' Matt Suhey. "This was World War III without nuclear weapons," said Mike Ditka. William

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WEEK 10
Nov. 10 at Chicago
Bears 24, Lions 3

With Jim McMahon on the bench nursing a sore shoulder and mother nature's contributions of rain, wind and cold, the Bears relied on their ground game to record their 10th win, a 24-3 decision over the Detroit Lions. The Bears running duo of Matt Suhey and Walter Payton gained 102 and 107 yards respectively, while Steve Fuller added rushing scores from one and five yards. Fuller filled in admirably for McMahon, completing 7 of 13 passes for 112 yards. Chicago ran the ball 21 plays from scrimmage to start the game before attempting a pass. The defense again was stout, holding the Lions to only 106 yards while forcing four turnovers. Mike Singletary recovered two fumbles and Dave Duerson and Otis Wilson each picked off Eric Hipple passes. William Perry turned in his best defensive performance of the year as he sacked Hipple twice while recording 5 tackles.

WEEK 11
Nov. 17 at Dallas
Bears 44, Cowboys 0

The Bears accomplished a lot in their 11th regular season game at Dallas. They proved they could play with and dominate the elite of the NFL; they clinched the NFC Central Division Title earlier than anyone ever has clinched a title in a 16-game schedule; they matched their previous best start (11-0) in club history (1942) and they proved they could thrive without injured quarterback Jim McMahon. The Bears forced four first-half turnovers, including two interception returns for touchdowns to spur a 44-0 trouncing of the Dallas Cowboys at Texas Stadium. It avenged a 23-14 loss to "Americas Team" in 1984 and marked only the second time the Cowboys had been shutout in the team's 26-year history. In addition, it was the worst defeat ever for the Cowboys. Chicago roared to a 24-0 halftime lead behind a defense that dominated play all afternoon with four interceptions and six sacks while yielding only 171 total yards. Bears' coach Mike Ditka beat his mentor, Dallas coach Tom Landry, and called it "no big deal." "Everybody wanted it, more so for Mike," said Walter Payton, who made history of his own with 132 yards to reach his ninth 1,000 yard season. Defensive end Richard Dent and cornerback Mike Richardson scored the Bears' first two touchdowns on interceptions, the first off Danny White and second off sub Gary Hogeboom. Leslie Frazier picked-off Hogeboom's third pass to set up a TD sneak by Fuller before the half that made it 24-0. Kevin Butler hit a 44-yard field goal in the first half and kept the pressure on with field goals of 46 and 22 yards in the 3rd and 4th quarters. Ditka called off the dogs in the final 10 minutes, letting rookie QB Mike Tomczak direct scoring drives that ended in a 17-yard TD run by Calvin Thomas and a 16-yarder by Dennis Gentry. "It's going to take quite an effort by somebody to get in our way right now," said Jay Hilgenberg. "We're destined," said Dave Duerson. "This team hasn't reached its potential yet," said Payton. "I keep saying that." And through 11 games the Bears kept proving it.

WEEK 12
Nov. 24 at Chicago
Bears 36, Falcons 0

The Bears threw another blank, their second in as many weeks. This time, the Atlanta Falcons fell victim to a Bear onslaught, 36-0 at Soldier Field. Again, it was Walter Payton tightroping on a magnificant 40-yard TD run that got the numbers moving. William Perry, Calvin Thomas and Thomas Sanders also plunged for shorter touchdowns. Kevin Butler kicked two field goals and defensive lineman Henry Waechter scored a safety. Only two other NFL teams had won 12 games at the start of their seasons. The 1934 Bears were 13-0. The 1972 Dolphins were 17-0 following their Super Bowl triumph. With the win, the Bears guaranteed themselves home field advantage for the first playoff game. Another victory would ensure them home turf through the playoffs. "I didn't know if this would be hard or easy," said coach Mike Ditka. "The way our defense is playing, it seems nothing is hard." The Bear defenders allowed Atlanta past the 50-yard line once. They held the Falcons to −22 yards passing and added two interceptions and 5 sacks. A field goal by Detroit Nov. 10 in a 24-3 win was the only score against the Bears in 13 quarters. The last time the Bears shut out two teams in a row was 1942. "Yeah, but they lost the championship in 1942," snapped Ditka. "I don't want to hear that stuff."

WEEK 13
Dec. 2 at Miami
Dolphins 38, Bears 24

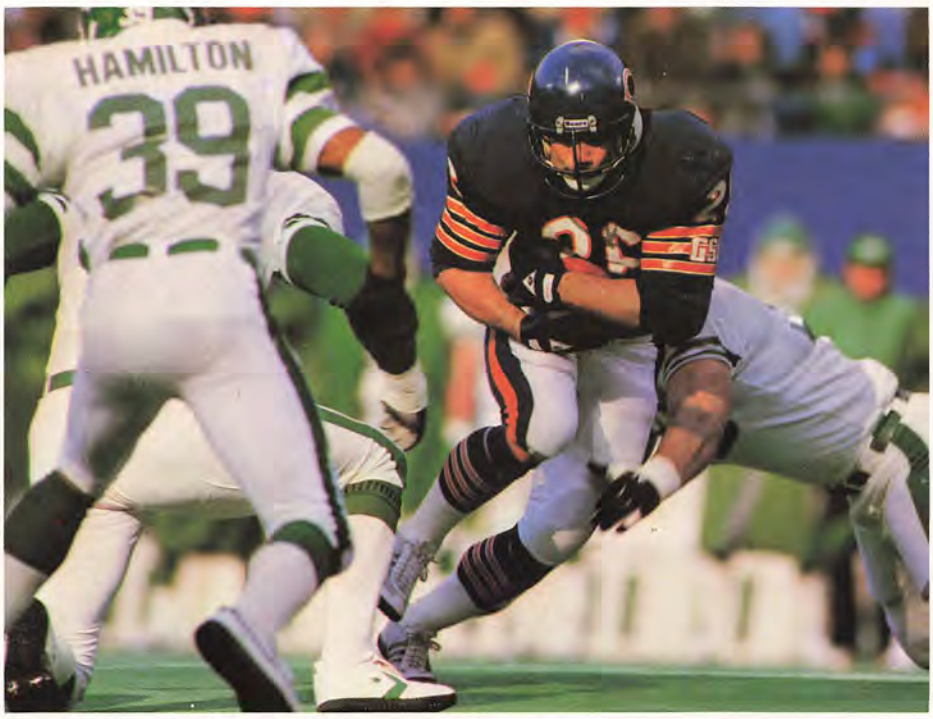
In week 13, the Bears proved to the NFL they were perfectly human when the Miami Dolphins ruined a perfect season and preserved history for themselves with a 38-24 victory. The Dolphins scored 31 first half points by converting five of six third down situations and taking advantage of good field position as a result of Bear miscues. The Dolphins scored on their first possession, as Dan Marino connected with Nat Moore on a 33-yard scoring pass that broke the Bears 13 quarter streak without allowing a TD. The Bears responded on the next possession as Steve Fuller's 69-yard pass to Willie Gault set up a Fuller one-yard TD sneak to tie the score 7-7. The Bears fell behind 17-7 early in the second quarter after a 47-yard field goal by Fuad Reveiz and a one yard run by Ron Davenport. The Bears took the ensuing kickoff and marched 58 yards before Kevin Butler's 30-yard field goal cut the lead to 17-10. But then Miami exploded, scoring 14 points in the final 1:57 of the first half on another one yard run by Davenport and another Marino to Moore scoring pass. By the time the No. 1 defense in the league adjusted the Bears' coach Mike Ditka switched from Steve Fuller to Jim McMahon, it was too late. The noisy Orange Bowl crowd of 75,594 counted down the seconds and hailed the 1972 Dolphins as the last unbeated team. "No body's perfect and we proved it," said Ditka. "Now it's what do you do with it. Do you bounce back? We'll be back."

WEEK 14
Dec. 8 at Chicago
Bears 17, Colts 10

Although not impressively, the Bears bounced backed from their only loss of the season by defeating the Indianapolis Colts 17-10. After a first half scoring struggle that ended with a 3-3 score, the Bears responded in the third quarter with a Walter Payton 16-yard TD run and a 3-yard TD run in the final stanza by Calvin Thomas. It was enough to make the 61-yard roll-out touchdown pass from Colts QB Mike Pagel to Wayne Capers three plays later no more than a conversation piece. "I'm not unhappy," said Ditka. "I really thought it would be 7, 10 or 13 point difference. I didn't think it would be a blowout like a lot of people." Jim McMahon returned to start at quarterback for the first time since Nov. 3. He completed 11 of 23 passes for 145 yards. In the second half, the Bear defense held the Colts to only 14 plays while the Bear offense stretched its time of possession to 38:55.

WEEK 15
Dec. 14 at New York
Bears 19, Jets 6

Because it was advertised as meaningless, the Bears' 19-6 win over the Jets was as impressive as any of their other 13 victories. The Bears brought their home field advantage with them to Giants Stadium — cold and windy weather. With Jets quarterback Ken O'Brien trying to throw with a gusting 28-mile-an-hour wind at his back in the third quarter, Richard Dent climbed on his back and forced two fumbles. The Jets only managed 70 yards rushing, 89 yards passing and failed to score a touchdown. Four field goals by Kevin Butler of 18, 31, 37 and 21 yards and one 7-yard touchdown pass from quarterback Jim McMahon to tight end Tim Wrightman was luxury enough for the Bears defense. The Jets held Walter Payton to 53 yards on 28 carries and ended his record string of 100-yard games at nine. Kevin Butler broke Mac Percival's club record of 25 field goals (1968) with his second of the day. Butler also broke Bob Thomas record of 11 consecutive FG's by establishing a new club mark with 13 in a row.



"We didn't have an explosive offense because we didn't call explosive plays," said Ditka. "It was almost impossible to throw into that wind. We played it close to the vest. It worked because our defense was outstanding," Ditka said of the conservative strategy. The Bears had the ball more than the Jets in every quarter. They finished the game with a 39:36 to 21:24 possession time edge.

WEEK 16
Dec. 22 at Detroit
Bears 37, Lions 17

The Bears were hoping to finish the regular season hot for the playoffs. But only coach Mike Ditka did. "We couldn't have beaten a playoff team today," said Ditka following the Bears 37-17 season ending win over the Lions. "We'll be the underdogs, no question about it." Ditka's tirade made certain the Bears would enter the playoffs with the same chip on their shoulders they had when they entered the season. Against the Lions, the Bears didn't have to worry about playoff-caliber competition, even in the friendly Silverdome. The Bears defense had provided a 30-10 cushion early in the final period when linebacker Ron Rivera became the 21st different Bear player to score in 1985. The Bears built a 16-3 lead on three field goals by Kevin Butler and a 94-yard kickoff return by Dennis Gentry to open the second half. Ditka took Jim McMahon and Walter Payton out of the game early in the fourth period, but put them back in for the final touchdown after the Lions cut the deficit to 30-17 with 11:07 remaining in the game. "Took us until the fourth quarter to outscore our defense and special teams," said Ditka.

FIRST ROUND PLAYOFF GAME

Jan. 5 at Chicago

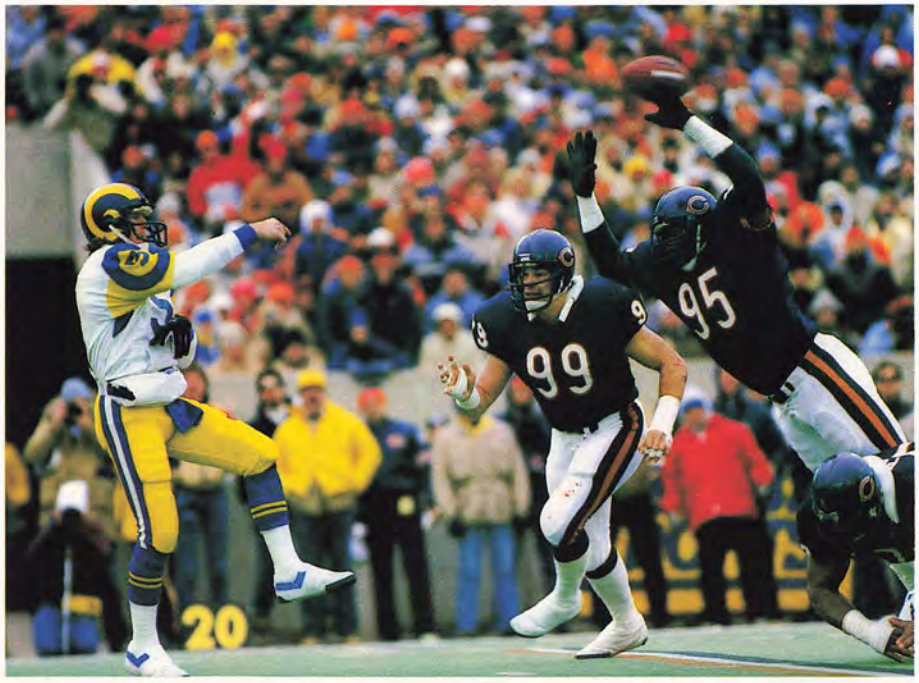
Bears 21, Giants 0

The Bears disposed of the New York Giants like a snowplow flattening a drift. The Chicagoans 21-0 win was that close only because the NFL doesn't provide for negative scores. The convincing win over the New Yorkers left the Bears one victory away from their first ever appearance in the Super Bowl. The Giants couldn't get a first down on nine of their first 11 drives. Shaun Gayle's bizarre 5-yard punt return for a TD in the first quarter opened the scoring. Quarterback Jim McMahon's two touchdown passes to Dennis McKinnon ended any doubt the Bears would advance to the NFC Title game. Defensive coordinator, Buddy Ryan had promised a shutout. Richard Dent, freed up by another new wrinkle in Ryan's scheme sacked Giants' QB Phil Simms 3½ times. Simms was sacked six times on the afternoon. Dent's 38 yards on sacks were six more than the whole Giants' running game in the other direction. "The main thing we wanted to do was stop Joe Morris," Dent said. Morris gained 19 yards on his first two carries, but finished the half with 8 more carries for only 11 yards. The Giants came into the game with the No. 2 defense, however, the Bears offensive line did not allow a sack against a Giants' rush that had led the league in sacks. The offense also had no penalties or turnovers. "Our players had a mission," said Ditka. "The defense, you gotta love 'em. The job Buddy did was just a great job of coaching." After Shaun Gayle's 5-yard punt return for a TD, the Bears spent the first half wasting field position blowing two opportunities beyond their 40-yard line. In the second half, Jim McMahon guided touchdown drives that resulted in TD tosses to McKinnon. Nine of his 11 completions were against the wind. "When the game is on the line and you've got to perform, he's the kind of guy who turns it on," said Matt Suhey. "He has the mentality of a running back or an offensive lineman stuck in a quarterback body."

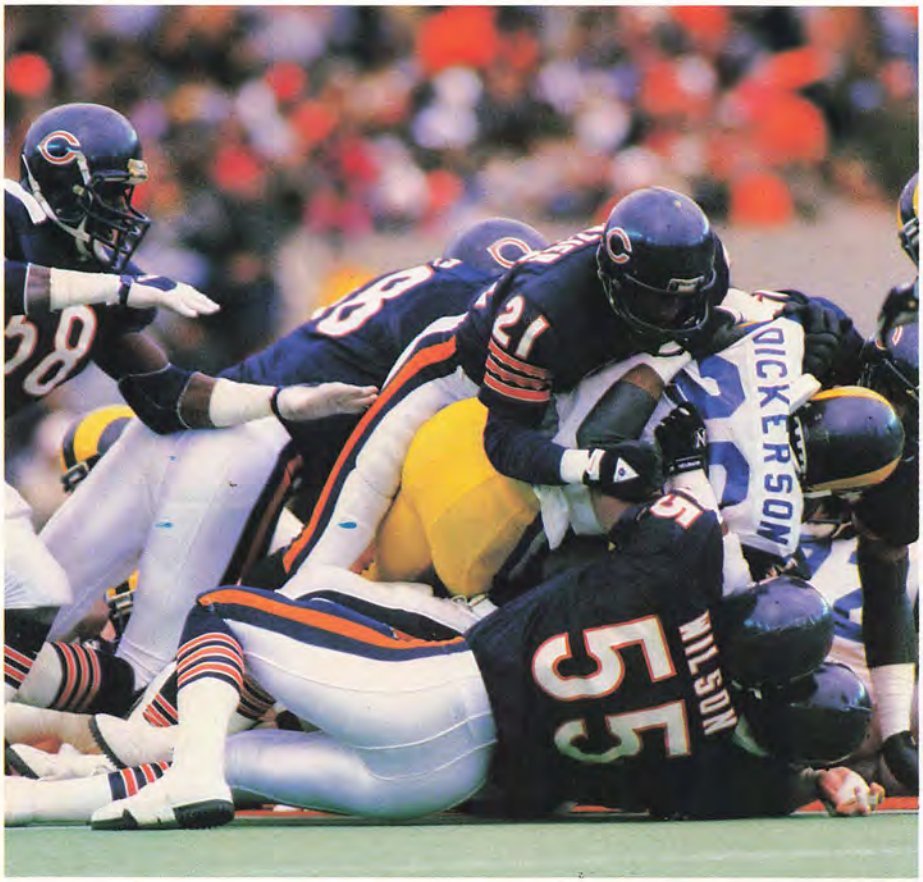
NFC CHAMPIONSHIP GAME

Jan. 12 at Chicago

Bears 24, Rams 0

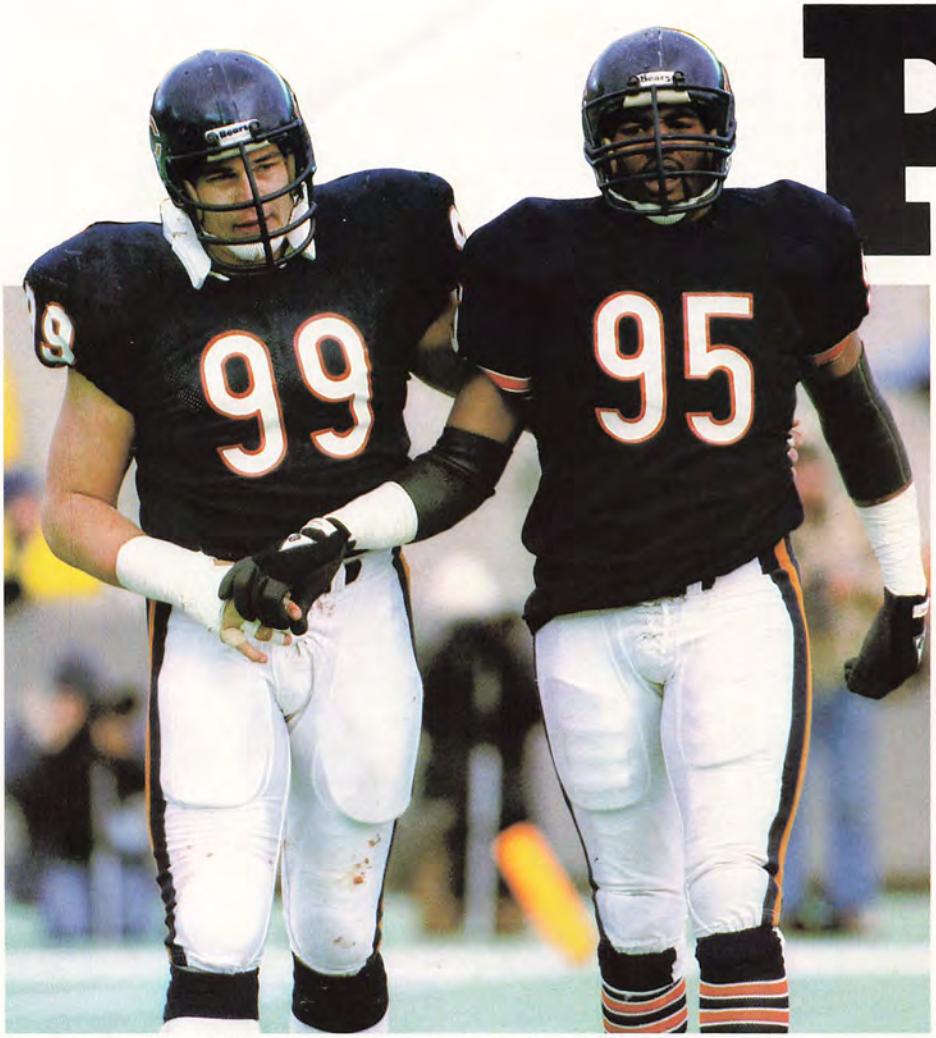


The Bears were convincing in gaining their first Super Bowl appearance ever. They recorded back-to-back shutouts against playoff teams to become the first team to ever accomplish the feat. By beating the Rams 24-0 in the NFC Championship Game, the Bears avenged as 23-0 defeat at the hands of the 49ers in the same game a year ago. A gusty 25-mile-an-hour wind blew in the faces of the Rams and always at the backs of the Bears. Jim McMahon threw strikes all afternoon while Rams QB Dieter Brock threw bricks. McMahon ran for one touchdown when he was supposed to pass and passed for another when the

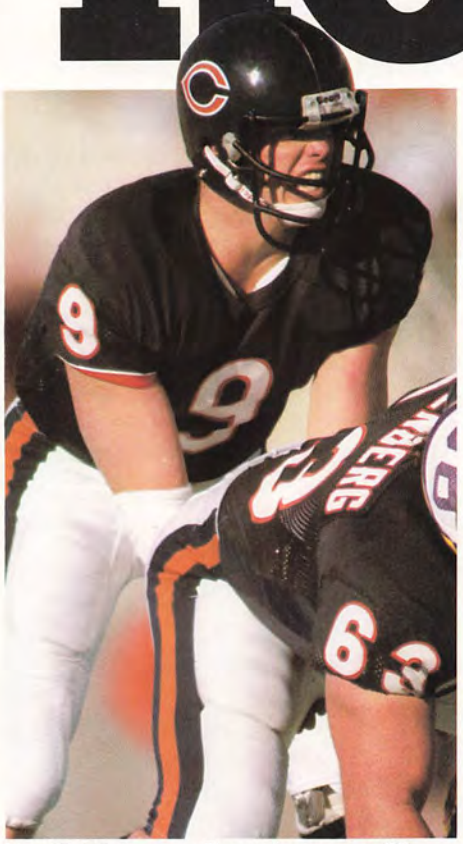


Bears were supposed to run. "You don't understand how well our quarterback threw the football," said Ditka of McMahon, who completed 16 of 25 passes for 164 yards. McMahon's primary target was Walter Payton, who gained only 32 yards but added 48 yards on 7 receptions. "Eleven years of climbing mountains and all the sweat finally paid off," said Payton. "I wish this was the Super Bowl." The Bears routinely stifling defense held Eric Dickerson to 46 yards on 17 carries. Dickerson fumbled twice and the Bears recovered the second to set up the 22-yard touchdown pass to Willie Gault that made it 17-0 in the third quarter. The Bears defense limited the Rams to 130 total yards and fittingly scored the final touchdown of the day. They chased Brock until he finally coughed up the ball on a sack by Richard Dent and watched linebacker Wilber Marshall run 52 yards for the final TD. It was a fitting punctuation for a defense that simply refused to show mercy. By the time it was over, the Bears were starting to get serious about their final stop in New Orleans. "There's a poem that says something about we've come many miles but, we still have some to go," said Ditka. "I don't want to sound like I'm not happy about what happened today, but we're on a mission and it won't be finished until we're finished in New Orleans." ■

PRO



Dan Hampton — Has now made Pro Bowl as both tackle and end.
Richard Dent — Super Bowl MVP paced NFL with 17 sacks.



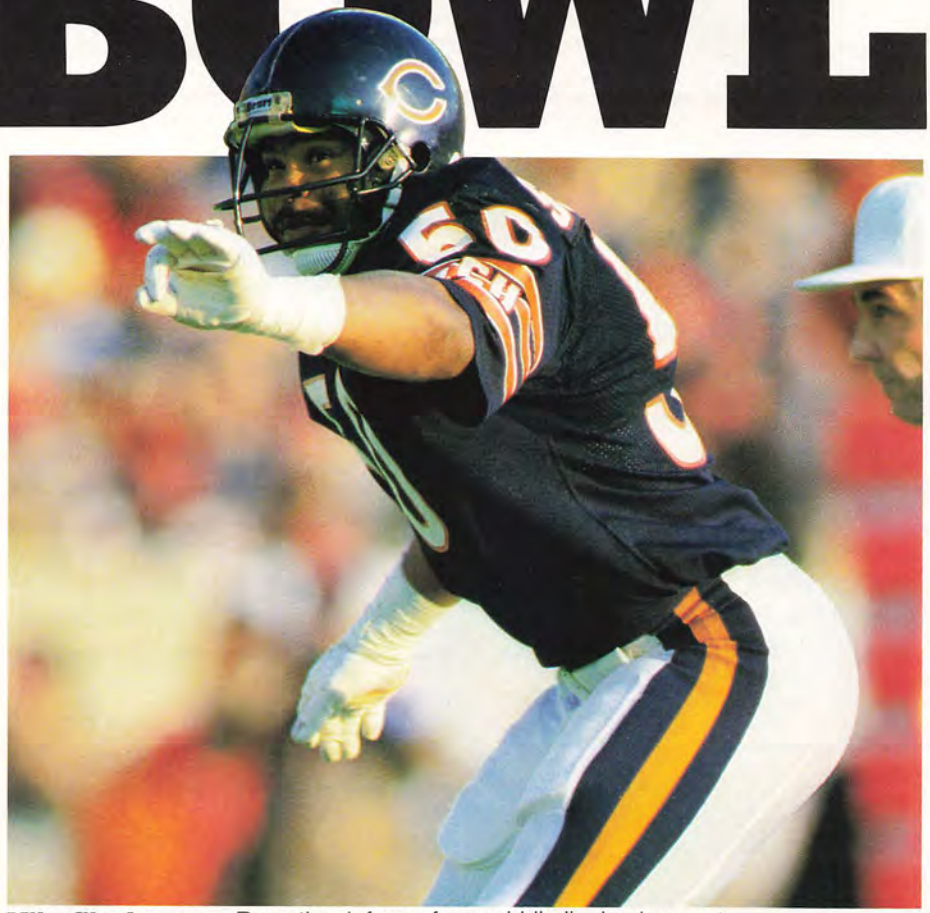
Jim McMahon — Bears have won 26 of his last 30 starts.

Otis Wilson — Team's 2nd leading sacker, 4th leading tackler.

Dave Duerson — Pro Bowler in just first year as starter.

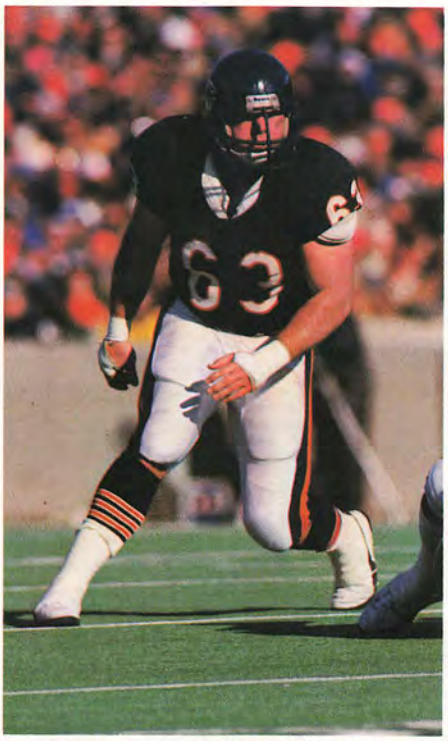
Jim Covert — Emerging as the best tackle in football.

BOWL



Mike Singletary — Runs the defense from middle linebacker spot.

Walter Payton — Played in 8th Pro Bowl and had 10th 1000-yard season.



Jay Hilgenberg — Made first pro bowl after joining team as free agent.

CHICAGO BEARS 1985 POST SEASON HONORS:

Michael McCaskey
TSN Executive of The Year
Football News Man of The Year
Jerry Vainisi
TSN Runner-up Executive of The Year
Mike Ditka — Head Coach
AP Coach of The Year
PFW NFC Coach of The Year
UPI Coach of The Year
Football News Coach of The Year
Kevin Butler
College & Pro Football Newsweekly 2nd Team
UP All-Rookie Team
PFWA All-Rookie Team
Football Digest All-Rookie Team
Jim Covert
AP, NEA, PFWA All-NFL Team
UPI 1st Team (NFC)
NEA 1st Team Offense
PFWA All-Pro Team
Sporting News All-Pro Team
Pro Bowl
Richard Dent
Super Bowl MVP
Pro Bowl
AP, PFWA All-NFL Team
UPI 1st Team Defense (NFC)
College & Pro Football Newsweekly 2nd Team
Football News All-NFC Team
Dave Duerson
Pro Bowl
Gary Fencik
AP 2nd Team Defense
UPI 2nd Team Defense (NFC)
College & Pro Football Newsweekly 2nd Team
Football News All-NFC Team
Dan Hampton
AP 2nd Team Defense
UPI 2nd Team Defense (NFC)
NEA 2nd Team Defense
Pro Bowl
Jay Hilgenberg
College & Pro Football Newsweekly 2nd Team
Pro Bowl
Jim McMahon
UPI 2nd Team NFC
Steve McMichael
AP 1st Team Defense
UPI 2nd Team Defense
Walter Payton
UPI Offensive Player of The Year
NEA Jim Thorpe Memorial Trophy
Maxwell Club Player of The Year
Pro Bowl
AP All-NFL Team
UPI 1st Team Offense (NFC)
NEA 1st Team Offense
Sporting News All-Pro Team
Football News All NFC Offense
William Perry
UPI All-Rookie Team Defense
Mike Singletary
AP Defensive Player of The Year
UPI Defensive Player of The Year
AP, NEA, PFWA All-NFL Teams
UPI 1st Team (NFC)
NEA 1st Team
PFWA All-Pro Team
Sporting News All-Pro Team
College & Pro Football Newsweekly 2nd Team
Football News All-NFC
Pro Bowl
Tom Thayer
PFWA All-Rookie Team
Otis Wilson
AP 2nd Team Defense (NFC)
UPI 1st Team Defense (NFC)
College & Pro Football Newsweekly 2nd Team
Football News All-NFC
Pro Bowl

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Defensive Line ..... John Levra
Defensive Assistant ..... Dave McGinnis
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Offensive Line ..... Dick Stanfel
Defensive Coordinator ..... Vince Tobin

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Regional Scout ..... Rod Graves
Regional Scout ..... Don King

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*Purchasing Agent ..... Max Swiatek

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Public Relations Assistant ..... Bryan Harlan

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Dir. of Information Systems ..... Greg Gershuny

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Film Director ..... Mitch Friedman

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*Ticket Manager ..... Gary Christensen
Ticket Office ..... 55 E. Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60604
Box Office: (312) 663-5408

*denotes office location is at ticket office.

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Superintendent-Halas Hall ..... R.L. McMurrin

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Strength Coordinator ..... Clyde Emrich
Assistant Trainer ..... Brian McCaskey

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Internist ..... Jay Munsell

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Assistant ..... Gary Haeger
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The **Bel Age's** period furniture and old master paintings give the ambiance of a French country manor. Casual is the feeling at **Le Parc,** a hotel designed as a business person's retreat.

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Mondrian **Bel Age**

Le Parc **L'Ermitage** **Le Dufy**

A collection of originals.

1985 RESULTS

DATE	OPPONENT	BEARS	OPP.	ATT.
PRE-SEASON GAMES: WON 1, LOST 3				
Aug. 9	**L** @ St. Louis Cardinals	3	10	36,305
Aug. 17	**L** INDIANAPOLIS COLTS	13	24	46,252
Aug. 26	**L** @ Dallas Cowboys	13	15	49,540
Aug. 31	**W** BUFFALO BILLS	45	14	43,728
TOTALS		**74**	**63**	**219,553**
REGULAR SEASON GAMES: WON 15, LOST 1				
Sept. 8	**W** TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS	38	28	57,828
Sept. 15	**W** NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS	20	7	60,533
Sept. 19	**W** @ Minnesota Vikings	33	24	61,242
Sept. 29	**W** WASHINGTON REDSKINS	45	10	63,708
Oct. 6	**W** @ Tampa Bay Buccaneers	27	19	51,795
Oct. 13	**W** @ San Francisco 49ers	26	10	60,523
Oct. 21	**W** GREEN BAY PACKERS	23	7	65,095
Oct. 27	**W** MINNESOTA VIKINGS	27	9	63,815
Nov. 3	**W** @ Green Bay Packers	16	10	55,343
Nov. 10	**W** DETROIT LIONS	24	3	53,467
Nov. 17	**W** @ Dallas Cowboys	44	0	63,855
Nov. 24	**W** ATLANTA FALCONS	36	0	61,769
Dec. 2	**L** @ Miami Dolphins	24	38	75,594
Dec. 8	**W** INDIANAPOLIS COLTS	17	10	59,997
Dec. 14	**W** @ New York Jets	19	6	74,752
Dec. 22	**W** @ Detroit Lions	37	17	74,042
TOTALS		**456**	**198**	**1,003,358**
POST SEASON GAMES: WON 3, LOST 0				
Jan. 5	**W** NEW YORK GIANTS	21	0	62,076
Jan. 12	**W** LOS ANGELES RAMS	24	0	63,522
Jan. 26	**W** New England (SUPER BOWL; New Orleans)	46	10	73,818
TOTALS		**91**	**10**	**199,416**

ATTENDANCE SUMMARY

	TOTAL	AVERAGE
23 Games	1,422,327	61,840
@ Pre-Season	85,845	42,923
PRE-SEASON (H)	89,980	44,990
Regular Season (16)	1,003,358	62,710
@ Regular Season (8)	517,146	64,643
REGULAR SEASON (H) (8)	486,212	60,777
POST-SEASON (H) (2)	125,598	62,799
@ Post-Season (N.O.)	73,818	73,818

1986 SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT
PRE-SEASON GAMES:	
Aug. 3	Dallas Cowboys, Wembley Stadium: London, England (12 p.m. C.S.T.)
Aug. 9	@ Pittsburgh Steelers, 6 p.m. C.S.T.
Aug. 16	St. Louis Cardinals, 8 p.m. C.S.T.
Aug. 23	Indianapolis Colts, 6 p.m.
Aug. 30	Buffalo Bills, 1 p.m. C.S.T.
REGULAR SEASON GAMES:	
Sunday, September 7	CLEVELAND (noon) (NBC doubleheader)
Sunday, September 14	PHILADELPHIA (noon)
Monday, September 22	@ Green Bay (8 p.m.)
Sunday, September 28	@ Cincinnati (noon)
Sunday, October 5	MINNESOTA (noon)
Sunday, October 12	@ Houston (noon)
Sunday, October 19	@ Minnesota (noon)
Sunday, October 26	DETROIT (noon)
Monday, November 3	LA RAMS (8 p.m.)
Sunday, November 9	@ Tampa Bay (noon)
Sunday, November 16	@ Atlanta (noon)
Sunday, November 23	GREEN BAY (noon)
Sunday, November 30	PITTSBURGH (noon) (NBC doubleheader)
Sunday, December 7	TAMPA (noon)
Monday, December 15	@ Detroit (8 p.m.)
Sunday, December 21	@ Dallas (3 p.m.) (CBS doubleheader)

TICKET INFORMATION

BOX OFFICE ..... 55 E. Jackson Blvd. (rm 1250)
Chicago, IL 60604
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ADDITIONAL OUTLETS Ticketron

TICKET PRICES $20.00, $17.00, $10.00

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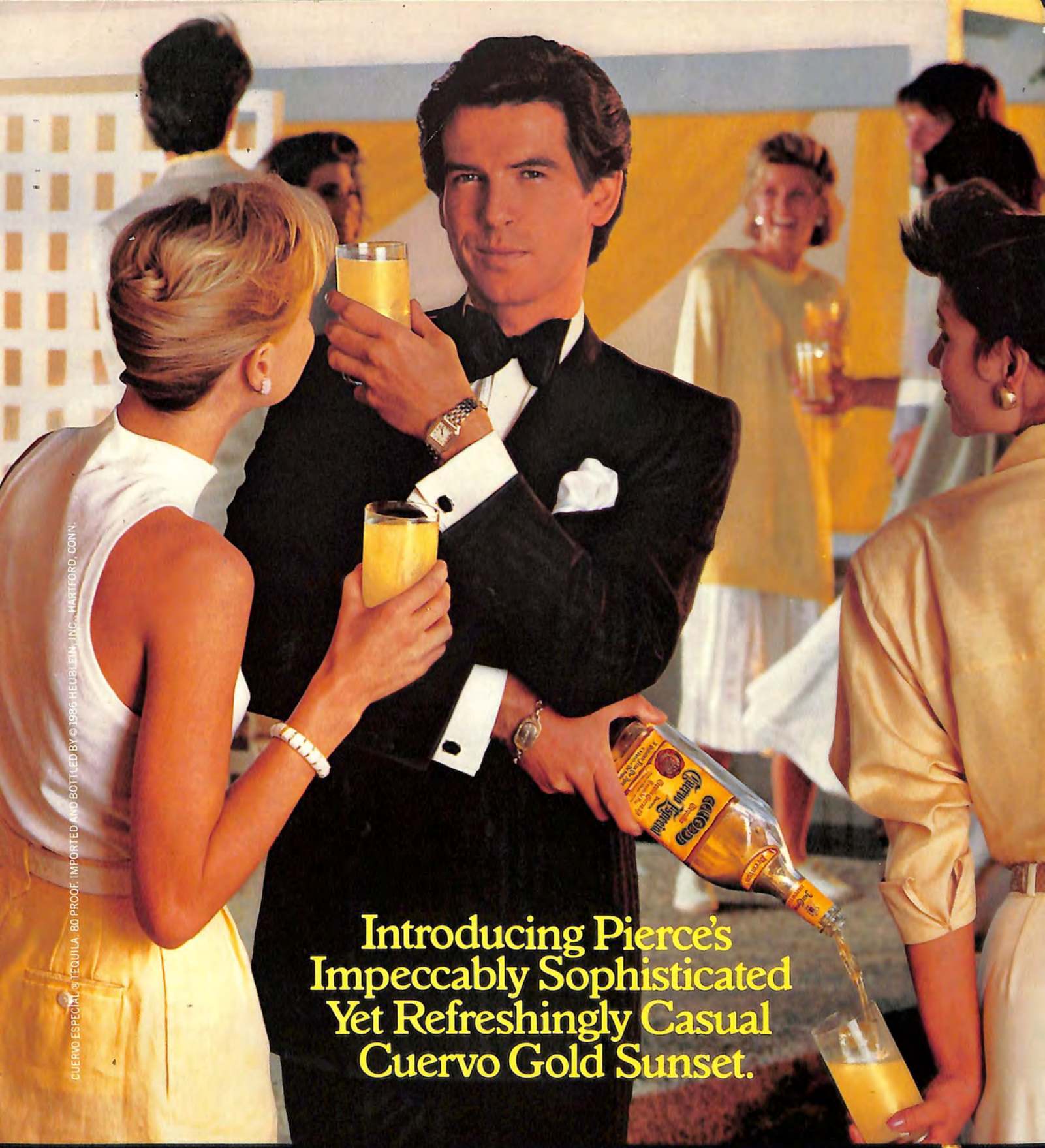

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